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Japan

Government Remarks on Lithuanian Situation

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

OW1101145591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1444 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—The Soviet Union should not unleash military force in rebellious Lithuania, the Foreign Ministry urged in a statement issued Friday after Soviet troops in the successionist Baltic republic stormed key buildings.

"Japan is watching with concern as the situation in Lithuania becomes increasingly tense," the ministry said a statement.

It said the use of force should be avoided and called on the Kremlin and the government of the Lithuanian Republic to settle their differences peacefully at the negotiating table.

The statement was stronger than another issued Thursday and reiterated by Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe in a meeting with foreign correspondents earlier Friday.

Soviet paratroopers, arriving in armored vehicles, reportedly stormed key buildings in Lithuania's capital of Vilnius, including the headquarters of the republic's State Defense Department and its main press plant.

Amid the wailing of air raid warning sirens, thousands of people took to the streets, while Lithuanian radio called on the republic's citizens to come to Vilnius to help, the reports said.

The exercise of force followed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's warning that the breakaway republic must submit to the Central Government's authority.

The Japanese spokesman mentioned the Soviet Union's other secessionist republics in his earlier warning against "resorting to arms."

Moscow has sent paratroopers to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and the Ukraine, on grounds of enforcing the military draft.

Kaifu 'Worried' About Situation

OW1201032791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0316 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Saturday he is worried about the situation in the Baltic republic of Lithuania, where Soviet troops Friday seize strategic buildings.

Kaifu, in a brief conversation with reporters, said he strongly hopes for a peaceful solution through dialogue to the confrontation between Lithuanian nationalists and the Kremlin.

Soviet paratroopers on Friday smashed their way into the headquarters of the separatist republic's Defense Department and the main press center in Lithuania's capital Vilnius, forcing staff out onto the street at gunpoint.

Kaifu Regrets Crackdown

OW1401050591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0446 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed regret Monday over the Soviet military crackdown in Lithuania.

Responding to questions from reporters at his office, Kaifu said the Soviet action in Lithuania resulting in a number of deaths and injuries "is something that should have been resolved through a peaceful dialogue."

Government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto indicated that emergency aid promised to the Soviet Union late last year to alleviate food shortages and distribution problems there may be in jeopardy following Sunday's storming by the Soviet military of the main broadcasting station in Vilnius.

"We cannot approve of this kind of military activity, and have a deep sense of anxiety," Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto said.

Saying, however, that the developments in the Baltic republics are not in line with the Soviet policy of perestroyka, Sakamoto hoped that "conditions will not get worse and will be brought under control democratically and peacefully."

Sakamoto said the Japanese Government's position will be transmitted to the Kremlin through official diplomatic channels.

A review of the government's plans to provide emergency food and medical aid to the Soviet Union is "natural" in the wake of the military crackdown, but more time would be needed to discern how the situation develops, he said.

Another government source Monday suggested that Sunday's assault on the broadcasting station was not an independent action of the Soviet military, saying "(Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev probably had to rely on the military."

The source added that the situation in Lithuania could influence Gorbachev's planned visit to Japan in April if it dragged out over a long period of time.

In Washington, Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama condemned the Soviet military action, but said it "has become more and more important to maintain dialogue," indicating he plans to visit Moscow on January 21 as scheduled.

Foreign Minister Condemns Action

OW1401012691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0045 GMT 14 Jan 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[TexT] Washington, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Sunday strongly condemned the Soviet military crackdown in Lithuania, urging President Mikhail Gorbachev to keep "the right direction of perestroyka."

He told reporters that he plans to proceed with his trip to Moscow later this month to pave the way for Gorbachev's historic state visit to Japan in April.

Expressing "serious concern" over the Lithuanian crisis, he said, "I cannot approve of this use of military force and appeal for its immediate cessation and strongly expect that the situation be settled in a democratic and peaceful manner."

Nakayama said in a statement, "I also strongly expect that President Gorbachev [will] now demonstrate his courage and leadership to maintain firmly the right direction of perestroyka."

The foreign minister issued the statement shortly after his arrival in Washington for talks with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker on Monday. He said later he will consult with Bush, Baker, and other Western leaders about the Lithuanian situation. Nakayama is also scheduled to meet Trade Representative Carla Hills and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, also on Monday, before returning home.

Nakayama's meetings with Bush and his cabinet members will cover the Persian Gulf crisis, the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, and the developments in the Soviet Union as well as Japan- U.S. security and economic relations, Japanese officials said.

After his arrival in Washington, Nakayama attended a meeting with Ambassador Ryohei Murata and Japanese consuls general in Chicago, Los Angeles, and other major U.S. cities.

A Japanese official said the diplomats conveyed to Nakayama concern about a potential backlash from a growing perception that Japan is "buying up America."

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. last week agreed to sell a concession in Yosemite National Park in California to the U.S. Government. It became owner of the concession when it purchased the U.S. entertainment conglomerate MCA.

Japanese diplomats also told Nakayama that the economic slowdown in the U.S. is aggravating bilateral relations, according to the Japanese official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official said, "Some Americans are questioning whether Japan is doing its fair share of the burden with respect to the Gulf crisis."

But Japanese diplomats from the midwestern and southeastern parts of the U.S. said the sentiment toward Japan has been favorable. The official said Japanese diplomats based in Washington told Nakayama that Japan has a poor image in the U.S. capital, and that it is worsening.

Soviet Envoy Summoned

OW1401103491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed regret Monday over the Soviet Government's use of force to subdue the rebellious Baltic republic of Lithuania, saying the Kremlin should instead have opted for "a peaceful dialogue."

A senior Foreign Ministry official summoned Soviet Ambassador to Japan Ludvig Chizhov to the Foreign Ministry and asked him to convey Japan's concern to Moscow.

But Nagao Hyodo, director general of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, also told the Soviet envoy that Japan has no plan to change Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's proposed visit to Moscow January 21-23, ministry officials said.

Kaifu told reporters Monday morning that the conflict between Kremlin and Lithuania "is something that should have been resolved through a peaceful dialogue."

Kaifu was referring to the crackdown Sunday at the main broadcasting station in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius which resulted in at least 15 deaths.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto also criticized the use of force, saying "we cannot approve of this kind of military activity."

He said the move was not in line with the Soviet policy of perestroyka and that it would be "natural" for the government to review its plans to provide humanitarian assistance to the Soviet Union in light of the latest events in Lithuania.

A senior Foreign Ministry official added that while Japan has made no decision regarding possible changes in its aid policy toward the Soviet Union, the situation in Lithuania will likely be taken into consideration.

In his meeting with Hyodo, Chizov said Moscow will continue to pursue perestroyka but that the policy does not imply the government's hands should be tied in the face of threats to public order and the Soviet Constitution.

Chizhov said the Soviet Union alone can decide on the course of perestroyka and warned that meddling by foreign powers would exacerbate the already explosive situation in his country.

The Soviet envoy said the Lithuanian parliament and other forces in the republic had forced Moscow's hand over the conflict with the Baltic nation.

Gorbachev and other top Soviet leaders had been unsuccessful in their efforts to reach a political solution to the constitutional crisis brought about by Lithuanian moves for independence, he said.

Economic Leader Reacts to Soviet Action

OW1401122991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1045 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said Monday that what he called Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's flirtation with right-wingers will dim the prospects for perestroyka and Japan-Soviet bilateral relations.

"It is a pity that the Kremlin has tried to settle the problem by force," Hiraiwa said, referring to Moscow's military crackdown on the breakaway republic of Lithuania over the weekend.

"As long as Gorbachev is forced to rely on the support of the military, it will be difficult for the Soviet Government to advance its economic reforms and to resolve the bilateral territorial problem with Japan," he told a press conference.

The bloody incident shocked Japanese political and business officials who are expecting the scheduled visit by Gorbachev in April to open the way for the return to Japan of the four islands off Hokkaido, which were seized by the Soviet Army in the closing days of World War II.

Hiraiwa also indicated that Keidanren might suspend its planned 50 million yen pharmaceutical aid to the Soviet Union depending on developments in the Lithuanian situation.

"The aid cannot be given unless there is a humanitarian environment there," he said.

But he also said the joint meeting of the Japan-Soviet and Soviet-Japan Business Cooperation Committees will be held as scheduled, beginning on January 30, shrugging off concern expressed by some business officials that the military incident might affect the talks.

The clampdown also upset Japanese industry, which has been preparing to enter the Soviet market with an eye on the business opportunities afforded by the country's transformation into a market-oriented economy.

"Political patronage is essential for any big project in the Soviet Union. The crackdown will make the government think twice before it provides active support for bilateral business," an official at a major trading house said.

A high-ranking official at another trader said, "we did not expect this would happen. The incident might delay bilateral economic relations for at least another five years."

Yeltsin Proposal on Islands Dispute Rejected

OW1101225391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Japan would not agree to deal solely with the Russian Federation in negotiations to resolve a dispute over the ownership of four islands now in possession of the Soviet Union, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

"We believe that the partner we have to deal with is the central Soviet Government at this moment," said spokesman Taizo Watanabe in a meeting with foreign correspondents.

Watanabe and other ministry officials were responding to a proposal made by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin last Wednesday in a meeting with a Japanese parliamentary delegation led by House of Councillors President Yoshihiko Tsuchiya.

Yeltsin reportedly argued that as the disputed islands lie within the jurisdiction of his vast republic, the Russian Federation should take over negotiations with Japan on their future disposition after the Kremlin first acknowledges the existence of a territorial issue.

"Officially or legally we have no intention to negotiate with the Russian Republic," said one ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The demarcation between the federal government and the Russian Republic on who decides the final solution of the territorial issue is a Soviet internal affair—it's their business," he said.

But the official stressed at the same time that Japan has no intention to challenge the Russian Federation's having a say in the territorial dispute.

The islands, which were seized from Japan by the Soviets at the end of World War II, lie off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido and are included by the Soviets in the Far East portion of the Russian Federation.

Soviet diplomatic sources in Tokyo have said that during Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's visit to Moscow on January 21-23, the Soviet side will explain the Russian Federation's new participatory role in talks concerning the islands.

Legislator Confirms USSR President's Visit

OW1301071891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0610 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japanese House of Councillors President Yoshihiko Tsuchiya returned to Tokyo on Sunday from a trip to Moscow to sound out Soviet positions before President Mikhail Gorbachev's scheduled visit to Japan in April.

During the eight-day tour, Tsuchiya, accompanied by a group of upper house members, met with Gorbachev and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

Gorbachev confirmed with Tsuchiya he would visit Japan when "the cherry blossoms bloom."

Foreign Minister Meets With Arab Diplomats

OW1201022791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0215 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Saturday called on the Arab world to mount an 11th-hour mission to search for a peaceful settlement to the Persian Gulf crisis, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Nakayama filed the plea with the Arab diplomatic corps in Tokyo just days ahead of the United Nations-approved January 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw its troops from occupied Kuwait.

Envoys from 17 of the 19 Arab countries and organizations represented in Tokyo attended a meeting called by Nakayama to present his appeal, the ministry officials said.

During the meeting, the foreign minister repeated Japan's call for Iraq to withdraw completely from Kuwait, and reaffirmed Japan's support for U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's impending peace mission to Baghdad, the officials said.

Further on Meeting

OW1201075291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0508 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Saturday called on the Arab world for a last-ditch effort to peacefully settle the Persian Gulf crisis, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Nakayama made the plea in a meeting with the Arab diplomatic corps in Tokyo three days prior to the United Nations January 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu also made a personal plea to King Husayn of Jordan to make a last-minute attempt to convince Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to pull out from Kuwait.

Kaifu met with visiting Jordanian Planning Minister Khalid Amin Abdullah at his official residence and asked him to deliver the message to the king, Japanese officials said.

The prime minister told Abdullah that he knows King Husayn is the person who has "the greatest influence" on the Iraqi president and Japan has great expectations of Jordan's ruler to bring peace to the Gulf.

Envoys from 17 Arab countries and the representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Arab League met with Nakayama at the Foreign Ministry. The Iraqi ambassador to Tokyo was not invited.

Nakayama urged the Arab world to make all efforts "until the last moment" to avert war in the Gulf, ministry officials said.

He stressed that Iraq's complete withdrawal from Kuwait is the key to a solution of the Gulf crisis.

He also said Japan will give all-out support for UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace mission to Baghdad.

Saudi Ambassador al-Majid Shobokshi, head of the Arab diplomatic corps in Tokyo, thanked Japan for taking what he called a "principled stand" on the Gulf crisis, and said he hopes Tokyo will continue to play an active role in ending the crisis.

Baghdad Embassy Evacuation Scheduled for 15 Jan

OW1401125091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Japan will evacuate all embassy personnel from Baghdad on Tuesday but 200 Japanese businessmen in Saudi Arabia have decided to stay in the country, which might turn into a battleground if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, Foreign Ministry sources said Monday.

Ambassador to Iraq Kunio Katakura will close the embassy in Baghdad on Tuesday and take the remaining four embassy staff out of the country, the sources said.

They had originally been scheduled to close the embassy and leave the country over the weekend but stayed on as Japan Socialist Party leader Takako Doi traveled to Baghdad in a bid to seek a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Doi met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Sunday and headed back to Japan on Monday.

The Japanese Embassy staff will fly to Amman from Baghdad on the way home.

Most major Western nations have evacuated their embassy staff in Baghdad in the face of a possible attack on Iraq by the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, the 200 Japanese nationals working in the eastern part of Saudi Arabia will stay there to help maintain operations at oil facilities after the January 15 deadline set by the United Nations Security Council for Iraqi troops to pull out of Kuwait or face military attack.

Socialist Party Leader Meets Iraq's Husayn

OW1401014491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0059 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 14 KYODO—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, facing a United Nations-imposed deadline to withdraw his forces unconditionally from Kuwait by Tuesday, stressed to a Japanese opposition politician Sunday he would not yield to threats of war.

Meeting with Japan Socialist Party [JSP] Chairwoman Takako Doi, Husayn said, "We also want to open the door of peace, but we will not yield as long as President Bush does not abandon his war initiative," JSP sources said.

U.S. President George Bush has demanded that Baghdad comply with UN resolutions calling for withdrawal from Kuwait, which Iraqi forces invaded last August 2. The UN also sanctioned the use of force to expel Iraq if it does not leave Kuwait by Tuesday's deadline.

In his one hour 45 minute meeting with Doi, the leader of Japan's largest opposition party, Husayn continued to blame Bush for the Gulf crisis and the failure of talks last week between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. He also reiterated his demand that any peace negotiations include the Palestinian issue, the sources said.

The Iraqi leader said of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, "First would be Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories .... At that conference, we will make sacrifices like those of other nations," they said.

Doi urged throughout the talks a nonmilitary resolution to the crisis and suggested an Iraqi indication of its intent to withdraw from Kuwait could open the way for a Middle East peace conference. The U.S., however, has refused to link the Palestinian issue with Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

Husayn criticized the Japanese Government's provision of financial support for the UN-sanctioned multinational forces assembled against Iraq in the Gulf region, the sources said. "Of course, (the Japanese Government) has not dispatched any troops, but doesn't this (financial aid) fail to respect the spirit of the peace Constitution?" Husayn was quoted as saying.

He also told Doi that the U.S. might use nuclear weapons against Iraq if hostilities break out, adding that "Japan was forced to surrender by atomic bombs, but the Arabs will not surrender," they said.

Doi later met with Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat, who described a meeting Sunday between Husayn and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar as "a success."

'Arafat reportedly told Doi that it would be better if the U.S. would accept the idea of an international peace conference to resolve all of the region's problems including the Palestinian issue. That would give the Iraqi side some room for compromise, 'Arafat said.

With her schedule of meetings completed, Doi will leave for Amman on Monday morning on her way back to Tokyo.

Kaifu, Bush Speak on Role in Gulf Crisis

OW1201022391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0205 GMT 12 Jan 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, Jan. 11 KYODO—The United States anticipates Japan's "physical support" in the Persian Gulf crisis as well as financial support, senior U.S. officials told a Japanese mission Friday.

Officials of the Departments of State and Defense and members of President George Bush's National Security Council expressed the hope in meetings with the mission from Japan's Defense Agency, a Japanese official said.

The Japanese group led by Shigeru Hatakeyama, director general of the Defense Agency's Defense Policy Bureau, also heard that the U.S. believes Japan needs to present "a proof of responsibility-sharing" in the Gulf crisis, the official said. "The American officials told us that financial assistance alone is not sufficient," the Japanese official told reporters speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. request for a physical presence and support by Japan in the Gulf region came while some Bush administration officials hailed Japan's financial contributions to the U.S.-led multinational forces and to the so-called front-line states such as Egypt, Turkey, and Jordan.

At a White House news briefing, presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "Their (Japanese) financial contribution has been significant and we appreciate their support and their timeliness in providing that funding." Fitzwater told reporters that Japan, Germany and other U.S. allies have pledged 10 billion dollars, 8 billion dollars of which has been committed. "It's my understanding that the money has been produced and has been provided on schedule," he said, adding, "We think the burden-sharing plan has gone very well."

Commenting on Bush's telephone conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Friday, Fitzwater said, "The prime minister assured the President of Japan's continued suport and that of a number of other Asian leaders for the international coalition and its efforts to implement the U.N. resolutions."

At a separate news briefing, Japanese Defense Agency officials said the Americans stopped short of elaborating on their request for physical support by Japan and Germany, which have limited their Gulf contributions to money and materials such as motor vehicles. But the U.S. officials told the Hatakeyama mission that 29 coalition partners have sent troops to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf since Iraq invaded Kuwait last August 2.

A senior Japanese official said many of the U.S. officials were skeptical about the outbreak of war immediately after the January 15 (Tuesday) United Nations deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

The U.S. officials at the State Department, the Pentagon, and the White House uniformly welcomed Japan's new defense buildup program and a Japan-U.S. host nation support pact, the official said. But U.S. officials nevertheless called for a review of burden-sharing arrangements in view of the growing economic power of Japan and South Korea.

The officials also told the Hatakeyama delegation that the U.S. foresees no drastic change in its East Asian forward deployment strategy with respect to Japan, the Japanese official said.

Further on Conversation

OW1101164291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1525 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—U.S. President George Bush on Friday told Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu by telephone he will seek a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis "until the very end"—a reference to the January 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council, government officials said.

A Foreign Ministry official said Bush was apparently stressing the importance of sticking to the letter of the U.N. Security Council resolution calling on Iraq to either withdraw unconditionally and completely from Kuwait by January 15 or face eviction by the multinational forces massed in the Gulf area.

In the 15-minute phone call, which was made at Kaifu's initiative, Bush was also quoted as saying, on a pessimistic note, "there is no diplomacy as far as I'm aware of."

Officials said Bush was believed to be referring to a lack of peace initiatives that could stave off the outbreak of war.

But the U.S. leader told Kaifu at the same time that he wants to see a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis sought for up to the very last minute, they said.

Kaifu said Japan is highly appreciative of the efforts the U.S. has made to bring the crisis to an end peacefully.

He said it is regrettable that the Iraqi side showed no flexibility during the talks in Geneva last Wednesday between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

For its part, Kaifu said, Japan has had its ambassador to the United Nations, Yoshio Hatano, contact U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cueller prior to his departure from New York on a last-minute peace mission to Baghdad, in order to pledge Japan's full support for his efforts.

Bush emphasized the importance of maintaining solidarity among the nations united against Iraq's takeover of Kuwait. He thanked Japan for doing what it can to achieve such unity among the nations of Asia.

Kaifu also took up with Bush his recent visit to South Korea, pledging that Japan will take care to consult closely with Seoul as it enters into talks with North Korea on a normalization of relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang.

He promised to press North Korea to accept outside inspection of its nuclear facilities to dispel suspicion that it may be working toward acquisition of a nuclear weapons capability.

Finance Ministry Studies Aid to Gulf Forces

OW1401131091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—The Finance Ministry is studying the possibility of providing additional aid to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf if war breaks out, ministry sources said Monday.

But the ministry still holds to the view that Japan is not in a position to quickly disburse additional money in light of the nation's current economic slowdown, they said.

The additional aid would come on top of a total of 2 billion dollars the government has already disbursed from reserve funds and the supplementary budget for fiscal 1990, ending March 31.

If a war breaks out in the Gulf, the United States and other major countries are expected to press Japan to provide 1-2 billion dollars in additional aid.

But the ministry is prepared to take a positive stance toward such a request in order to compensate for Japan's inability to dispatch support personnel to the Gulf region.

The ministry has ruled out issuing deficit-covering bonds to cover the aid commitment due to its concern for sound fiscal management.

But with tax revenues expected to slow due to a cooling economy, there are few options left for the ministry to secure the necessary funds, the sources said.

Owing to the 20 billion yen worth of aid Japan has already committed to the Gulf forces, the government said it has only 13.2 billion yen in reserve funds in fiscal 1990, while reduced tax revenue is making it difficult to devise another supplementary budget.

"There are limited measures we can take under the fiscal 1990 budget. We hope an early passage of the fiscal 1991 budget plan will provide us with some latitude to manage some contributions," a top-ranking ministry official said.

The budget program for the new fiscal year, starting April 1, was approved by the government at the end of 1990 and will go to the Diet for deliberation later this month.

Once the budget for the new fiscal year is approved, the ministry will be able to set aside a portion of the 350 billion yen in reserve funds under the fiscal 1991 budget as well as proceeds from public works-financing bond issues, the sources said.

Foreign Ministry Warns Against Gulf Terrorism

OW1101143891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1309 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—The Japanese Foreign Ministry, with an eye on Tuesday's deadline for Iraqi troops to be withdrawn from Kuwait, issued a cautionary message Friday against the possibility of Gulf-related terrorist attacks to Japanese travelers and nationals working overseas.

With the failure of talks Wednesday between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and war seeming increasingly imminent, the Japanese ministry, following the lead of some European nations, decided to take the unusual step of issuing the warning.

The ministry's message cautioned against the possibility that "terrorists throughout the world, especially in the Arab region, Europe, and America, will take advantage of the upheaval to carry out terrorist activities, including bombings, kidnappings, and hijackings against the interests of the West, including Japan."

While the ministry has no concrete information that such terrorist attacks will occur, according to ministry officials, it nevertheless stressed the need for caution by people traveling overseas.

Regarding the Japanese Red Army, closely linked to other terrorist groups, including radical arms of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the directive pointed out that PLO sources have threatened to battle the United States "in any and all possible ways if the Gulf crisis becomes a war."

A Japanese source remarked "The possibility of the Japanese Red Army joining in the terrorist activities cannot be ignored."

Companies Purchase Gas Masks for Gulf Employees

OW1201002591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1255 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Amid mounting tension in the Persian Gulf area, Japanese companies have bought a large number of gas masks to protect company employees and their families in the area from possible chemical warfare, company officials said Friday.

Arabia Oil Co., a Tokyo-based company producing crude oil in Khafji, only 18 kilometers from the Saudi-Kuwait border, has bought about 5,000 European-made masks since October through a U.S. firm.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., which is building a thermal power station in southern Saudi Arabia, has purchased gas masks there.

In Japan, only one Tokyo company, Koken, manufactures chemical warfare gas masks, and only on orders from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. Such masks are not commercially available in Japan.

A small Tokyo importing firm has bought about 200 Israeli-made masks in the United States and is making sales pitches to Japanese companies operating in the Gulf.

Government To Contribute to Gulf Relief Fund

OW1401103991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Japan said Monday it will extend the equivalent of 38 million dollars in emergency funds for refugee relief and repatriation efforts related to the Persian Gulf crisis.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told reporters that the government will contribute some 5.1 billion yen to the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organization (UNDRO) to fund the initial costs of a new refugee and relief program.

The Japanese contribution will be part of the 175 million dollar cost the UNDRO has estimated is necessary to finance the UNDRO-coordinated program.

The UNDRO expects as many as 400,000 refugees to stream out from Iraq to neighboring countries if war breaks out in the Gulf, Japanese officials said.

They said the money will be used to purchase materials, food, vehicles, infrastructure, and storage facilities, and to meet medical, administration, transportation, and shipment costs.

In addition, Sakamoto announced that Japan will accept another UNDRO request by providing 6,000 blankets to help deal with the anticipated rise in the flow of refugees into countries like Jordan.

Officials said the new program should help ease the economic burden of Jordan, which has recently closed its borders to more refugees until the international community comes up with greater assistance.

Japan has already provided 22 million dollars for refugee relief assistance after Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2.

Jordanian Planning Minister, Nakayama Meet

OW1201012791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0016 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Jordan may have to cope with an influx of two million refugees if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, Jordanian Minister of Planning Khalid Amin 'Abdallah said here Friday, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

'Abdallah, who arrived in Tokyo earlier Friday on a four-day visit, made the remarks in a meeting with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, the officials said. He is the highest-level Jordanian official to visit Japan since the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

For his part, Nakayama pledged that Japan would consider extending further refugee assistance to Jordan in addition to the 22.2 million dollars donated for that purpose so far, officials said.

Foreign Ministry sources said the financial assistance would most likely be rendered in the event a new appeal for aid is issued by relevant U.N. organizations.

Nakayama's remarks came in response to 'Abdallah's request for more refugee assistance from the international community.

Jordan said last Wednesday it is closing its border to all non- Jordanians evacuating Iraq and Kuwait until it receives more international help to deal with them. It has also reportedly asked Iraq not to allow refugees to cross into Jordan.

The border is to be reopened when specific plans for the departure of refugees are worked out by their governments and international bodies.

'Abdallah told Nakayama that his country has dealt with some one million refugees since the August invasion.

Officials said only a thousand had been believed to be remaining, but that Khalid told Nakayama that recently some 5,000 Filipinos crossed in from Iraq.

Red Cross Sets Up Medical Teams for Gulf

OW1401123091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1059 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—The Japanese Red Cross Society said Monday it has set up two medical teams on stand-by orders for emergency missions to the Persian Gulf as war looms in the region.

Red Cross officials said the two teams are ready to go whenever requested by the International Red Cross Society.

One team, consisting of two surgeons, an anesthetist and five nurses, will be sent in the event of war breaking out in the Gulf.

The other team, consisting of one physician, one anesthetist, one nurse teacher and six nurses will be dispatched to Kuwait if Iraq decides to pull out of the country.

Citizens in Middle East Advised To Leave

OW1201131991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1252 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—With the deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face war just three days away, the Foreign Ministry on Saturday advised Japanese residents in six Middle Eastern countries to leave.

The ministry said the advice was issued to about 750 Japanese in Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Syria, Israel, and eastern Saudi Arabia, including Riyadh.

Most of them are expected to be out by January 15, the United Nations Security Council deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, the ministry said.

Ministry officials said most of the Japanese in the six countries are employees of companies doing business there and their dependents.

The ministry also advised caution for Japanese nationals in the United Arab Emirates.

It advised Japanese not to go to any of the above-named countries, or to Iraq or Kuwait.

Government Prepares Emergency Plan for Gulf War

OW1401134191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—The Government of Japan will go into an emergency operation plan formulated to deal with a possible war in the Persian Gulf, government sources said Monday.

The plan calls for an immediate emergency meeting of the Security Council chaired by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and comprising Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Defense Agency Chief Yukihiko Ikeda, and five other cabinet ministers if a war breaks out in the Gulf region.

Under the basic emergency plan, the cabinet meeting will also be convened to set up a cabinet task force to address the emergency situation stemming from a possible conflict between Iraqi and multinational forces.

Under the cabinet task force, staff led by Deputy Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara will be established to collect and analyze information on a possible war.

The task force staff, which would include vice ministers of the government ministries and agencies, would also draw up and implement policies to deal with possible developments in the region.

The policies are expected to commit more Japanese financial and material support for the multinational forces and the front-line nations hard hit by the Gulf crisis and the subsequent possible war, according to the sources.

Japan has so far pledged 2 billion dollars in financial support for the U.S.-led multinational forces and another 2 billion dollars in economic assistance for the front-line nations, especially Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey.

The government will also issue a statement endorsing use of force by the multinational force and calling for an immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the event of war, the sources said.

To protect Japanese nationals in the Gulf area, Japan will take measures to evacuate them and study the possibility of hiring a chartered plane to carry them to safe places.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto also said Monday that Japan has completed preparations to cope with an oil supply shortage in case of a war in the Gulf.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] will set up a special task force to secure a stable supply of crude oil if a war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, MITI officials said.

Japan's current oil reserves, equivalent to 142 days of supply, are more than double the amount at the time of the first oil crisis in 1973.

Kaifu Briefs ASEAN Leaders on Canceled Tour

OW1101232891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Friday telephoned four leaders of member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to brief them on the cancellation of his scheduled ASEAN tour, government officials said.

Kaifu was due to leave January 13 for an eight-day visit to Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and Thailand.

Earlier in the day, the government formally decided to cancel Kaifu's trip due to growing tension in the Persian Gulf in the wake of Wednesday's failed talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva.

Kaifu contacted President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan of Thailand, Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore by telephone from his official residence.

Kaifu will also send a personal message explaining his decision to Brunei's King Hassanal Bolkiah through diplomatic channels.

In telephone talks with the ASEAN leaders, Kaifu sought their understanding of his decision to call off the trip, saying he decided to stay in Tokyo to do his utmost until the last minute to help find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, according to the officials.

In response, all the four leaders expressed their understanding toward the Japanese Government stance and accepted the sudden cancellation of the trip.

Mahathir was quoted as saying he hopes to establish a personal relationship with Kaifu and looks forward to seeing the Japanese prime minister as soon as possible.

Goh was quoted as telling Kaifu that he wants to further promote the friendly bilateral relations established by his predecessor Lee Kuan Yew.

Aquino expressed her strong hope that the Gulf crisis will be peacefully resolved, while Chatchai extended his invitation for Kaifu to visit Thailand at an early date.

After the day's regular cabinet meeting which approved the cancellation of Kaifu's tour, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told reporters that Japan hopes to realize the ASEAN tour as soon as possible.

Foreign Ministry sources said, however, that it will now be difficult for Kaifu to visit the ASEAN nations at an early date because of his tight political schedule.

Kaifu reached the decision to call off his Asian tour after consulting with Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, Nakayama, and other senior government officials Thursday night. Kaifu met them at his official residence to review the Gulf crisis following the collapse of the Baker-'Aziz talks.

He was scheduled to deliver a major speech in Thailand outlining Japan policy toward the Asia-Pacific region.

Kaifu returned Thursday from a two-day visit to South Korea in which he held two rounds of talks with President No Tae-u.

Legislators Leave for Talks in U.S. on Gulf

OW1301074691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0708 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—A multipartisan delegation of Japanese legislators left for Washington on Sunday for an exchange of opinions with U.S. lawmakers over the increasingly tense situation in the Persian Gulf.

House of Representatives member Susumu Nikaido, head of the Parliamentarians League for the United Nations, and other league members were invited by U.S. Congressman Richard Gephardt, a Democrat from Missouri, to discuss U.N. peace initiatives in the crisis.

The delegation, which left Sunday from Narita airport on an All Nippon Airways airliner, is scheduled to return Friday.

LDP Official Advocates Self-Defense Forces Role

OW1401094491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Nagasaki, Jan. 14 KYODO—A senior member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Monday advocated including the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in a possible Japanese organization designed to contribute to international peacekeeping activities.

Takeo Nishioka, chairman of the LDP's decision-making Executive Council, told a meeting of supporters in his Nagasaki constituency he thinks it doubtful that Japan can contribute to global peacekeeping efforts with a team which excludes SDF personnel.

Nishioka's remark came following the scrapping in early November of the government-sponsored U.N. Peace Cooperation Bill aimed at sending SDF personnel to trouble spots abroad such as the Persian Gulf region because of strong criticism from all opposition parties and the public.

Japan's Constitution prohibits the use of force to settle international disputes, which is interpreted as banning the overseas dispatch of SDF troops.

The LDP and two opposition parties, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), are in the process of drawing up an alternative bill aimed at creating a corps to assist international peacekeeping activities that would exclude the participation of SDF personnel.

Referring to the clause of the Constitution renouncing the use of force as a means of settling international disputes, Nishioka said the time has passed when Japan can deal with international disputes based on "imaginary national pacifism."

Nishioka also said Japan has no legal framework to deal with international emergencies such as the current Gulf crisis.

JSP To Coordinate Policies With Other Parties

OW1201130891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—The Japan Socialist Party (JSP) will seek to coordinate policy with both the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and other opposition parties under a draft action policy for 1991 likely to be adopted by a party convention later this month.

The draft, released Saturday, drops the previous programs' reference to "concrete prospects" of an opposition coalition government, and calls for major internal reforms.

The JSP should change from a party that merely opposes government policy to a powerful opposition force capable of forging realistic policies of its own, the draft policy said.

Policy consultations should be carried out between the ruling and opposition camps, as well as within the opposition, to serve the interest of the people and a greater Japanese contribution to the international community, it said.

The leadership of the top opposition party also proposed inaugurating a policy panel for the creation of a "shadow cabinet."

The draft basic policy line will be discussed, and probably approved, at a three-day party convention opening January 30.

The JSP must take advantage of the ruling LDP's 1989 loss of its majority in the House of Councilors to open the way for an alternative government, it said. The action program calls for the party to gear up for victory in local elections this spring.

The LDP retains a majority in the more powerful House of Representatives.

On the international front, the JSP will promote relations with the social democratic parties forming the Socialist International, and promote disarmament and confidence-building in the Asia-Pacific region, while continuing to oppose the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, according to the program.

The draft plan also said the JSP supports independent and peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula and will strive to build balanced relations with both North and South Korea.

Mongolia

Government Sets New Visa, Passport Policy

OW1201012191 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1714 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 11 January (OANA-MONTSAME)—A new procedure of issuing visas and passports for traveling abroad has been introduced into Mongolia starting 15 January. This was announced by Ch. Agvaandorj, an official from the police administration, at a news conference held here yesterday. According to the new rule permanent passports for traveling abroad are to be granted to any Mongolian citizen in case of his or her reception of a visa from from the embassy of relevant country.

With the development of pluralism, democracy and the implementation by the government of an open economic policy the number of those traveling abroad on private business has increased dramatically. The number of such persons reached 25 thousand last year alone, a figure as much as five times compared to 1989.

Parliament will soon examine and adopt a law on the procedure of exit of Mongolian citizens abroad and entry of foreign nationals into Mongolia. According to Mr. Ch.

Agvaandorj the would-be law will meet fully the requirements of the UN Declaration on Human Rights and the conventional international norms and create legal framework for the implementation of the right of any citizen to choose the place of his or her residence.

State Prosecutor's Office 'Depoliticized'

LD1101182391 Berlin ADN in German 0927 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Ulaanbaatar—The State Prosecutor General's Office of Mongolia has "depoliticized" itself. All employees of the office who belong to the Communist Revolutionary People's Party agreed today to dissolve their workplace organization. Party work in the offices of state prosecutors, judges, and other civil servants is not in line with the needs of the time, the lawyers agreed. [passage omitted]

Democratic Party Leader Holds News Conference

OW1201021091 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1449 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Jan (MONTSAME)—"We have parted with the aging charter, which gave our party characteristics of a militarized organization. We began to recognize the rights of the minority, allowing them to form their own factions," E. Bat-uul, the leader of the MDP [Mongolian Democratic Party], said today at a news conference summarizing the recently concluded special congress of the MDP.

G. Boshigt, leader of the Civil Democratic Faction within the MDP, said: "We do not have any differences in principle about the political plan. However, current economic problems take priority. We differ on the questions of directions, methods and sequence in the switch to a market economy."

In answer to journalists' questions, E. Bat-uul said that the party now considers itself a parliamentary party.

Prime Minister Receives U.S., Palestinian Envoys

OW1201020991 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1502 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Jan (MONTSAME)—MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] Prime Minister D. Byambasuren received the Palestinian ambassador to the MPR in connection with the latter's departure for his homeland.

The same day, D. Byambasuren received U.S. Ambassador G.E. Lake at the request of the former [words indistinct].

Vice President Receives DPRK Ambassador

OW1401061991 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1502 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Jan (MONTSAME)—R. Gonchigdorj, vice president of the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] and chairman of State Small Hural, today received Chong Yun-ho, DPRK ambassador to MPR, at the latter's request.

North Korea

U.S. Congressional Vote on Use of Force Noted

SK1301140391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] According to a report, today the U.S. Congress passed a resolution to use force against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait, thus giving Bush the supreme power to wage war.

The report says that Bush has thus obtained the authority to attack Iraq by force any time if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait by 15 January.

This shows that the U.S. imperialists do not have any intention of resolving the Gulf crisis in a peaceful way. This also only serves to show the aggressive ambition of the U.S. imperialists to invade Iraq and to take over the Gulf region by force at any cost.

South's Dispatch of Medical Team to Gulf Viewed

SK1201130391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1108 GMT 12 Jan 91

["Crime of South Korean Authorities"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA) - The No Tae-u ruling group, in defiance of strong opposition and protest of broad public circles of South Korea, announced Friday that it would send a 150-member "military medical team" to the Gulf region, according to a radio report from Seoul.

This is an unpardonable act which is a repetition of the anti-nationwide crime committed by a former puppet regime by dispatching troops to South Vietnam in the 1960's.

This criminal act touched off deep indignation among the 70 million fellow countrymen because the puppets, announcing the step to dispatch "a military medical team," openly linked it to their scheme for a war against the North. It should be recalled that the puppet Defence Ministry authorities blared the dispatch of the "military medical team" will help not only "strengthen relations of security cooperation" with the United States but also lay foundations for possible "aid" from the "friendly country? In case of the "outbreak of disputes" on the Korean peninsula.

Facts tell that the South Korean authorities are seeking to gratify their wild ambition for northward invasion by winning the patronage of the U.S. imperialists, their masters, in return for joining in the latter's aggressive actions in the Gulf region.

Paper Calls South's Gulf Policy 'Unpardonable'

SK0801054491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 8 Jan 91

["Criminal Move To Partake in Aggression"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u ruling group decided to send a "military medical team" to the Gulf region. Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands this as an unpardonable criminal act to zealously partake in the U.S. imperialists' undisguised armed intervention and aggression moves in the Gulf region and offer fellow countrymen to the imperialists as cannon fodder and bullet shields in their war of aggression.

The decision to send a "military medical team" to the Gulf is the curtain-raiser to a massive overseas dispatch of the puppet army, the news analyst says, and continues:

The progressive mankind of the world wants to see a peaceful solution to the Gulf situation without outside forces' interference and is now making efforts to this end. The No Tae-u ruling group, however, is joining its master, the U.S. imperialists, with a zeal in their aggressive moves at this moment. This fully reveals once again its base and wretched sight as a colonial stooge, flunkeyist and detached force of the U.S. imperialists for their overseas aggression.

The No ruling group is, by nature, a group of special class stooges and traitors that has propped up the dictatorial power by clinging to the coattails of its master. It, in defiance of the objection of the South Korean people, is begging for the permanent occupation of South Korea by U.S. aggression forces and for the U.S. "nuclear umbrella". And it accepts anything the master demands of it.

The South Korean authorities have provided hundreds of millions of dollars to the United States for the U.S. forces' presence in the Gulf from the last autumn.

The No ruling group, yielding to the U.S. demand and pressure, has increased its share of the cost of the maintenance of the U.S. troops in South Korea, opened the market wider, disregarding the interests of the South Korean people, and readily responded to the U.S. request for financial and personnel "assistance" for its operation in the Gulf region.

The No ruling group must stop the treacherous act of joining in aggression.

Yun Ki-pok Addresses Reunification Meeting

SK0801044991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Delegates of the government, political parties and organisations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held a joint meeting in Pyongyang this morning and discussed the agenda item "on measure for realising national reunification proposal profoundly expounded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his new year address".

In his report to the meeting, Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said: This year we should open a decisive phase for national reunification come what may and pave the way for accomplishing the historical cause of national reunification on all accounts before 1995, the 50th anniversaries of national liberation and national division.

He further said:

The great principle of defining the method of national reunification, that is reunifying the country by means of confederation on the basis of one nation, one state, two systems and two governments is the most just and reasonable one for reunifying the country with success in keeping with the desire of the nation when two different systems exist in the North and the South.

The proposal for convening a political consultative conference for national reunification advanced by the great leader this time is an epochal measure for paving the way for defining the method of national reunification at an early date and accomplishing the historical cause of national reunification in a few years to come.

Any politician who is truly concerned for the future of the nation and aspires after the reunification of the country, whether he is in the North or South and belongs to the ruling party or an opposition party, should unconditionally come to the political consultative conference for national reunification to discuss an important matter of the nation carrying the cherished desire of the entire fellow countrymen.

There can be no reason or ground for the authorities, political parties and organisations of South Korea to refuse our proposal proceeding from the ardent desire for reunification and patriotism.

The South Korean authorities must not go to other countries for "entreaty diplomacy" to solve the internal affairs of the nation, but take a sincere attitude to sit face to face with us and debate on the important issue of the nation.

We express the expectation that the governments, political parties and organisations of many countries of the world that love peace will extend active support and encouragement to our efforts to convene a political consultative conference for national reunification and our just cause of reunification.

Delegates of political parties and organisations made speeches at the meeting.

The joint meeting adopted a letter to the authorities, heads of political parties and delegates of organisations in South Korea containing a concrete proposal for convening a political consultative conference for national reunification in view of the urgent need to decide upon the way of national reunification at an early date.

Agricultural Leader Supports New Year Speech

SK0901045991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 9 Jan 91

["To Reunify Country Through Confederation is Best Way of Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—To reunify the country by establishing one united national state through confederation while leaving intact the two systems and governments in the North and the South in the situation of our country where two different ideas and systems exist in the North and the South today is the most reasonable and best way of reunification, said Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, in a statement dated January 8 supporting the new proposal for national reunification.

He said:

In the new year address the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song clarified a great principle of defining the method of national reunification, saying that it is important in hastening the reunification of the country to decide upon the method of national reunification for the present.

For our reunification-thirsty nation to establish regional autonomous governments in the North and the South within the framework of the confederal republic irrespective of ideas and systems is a fair and aboveboard way of neither side conquering the other nor being conquered nor infringing upon the interests of the other side. Therefore, there can be no reason for either side to refuse to accept it.

The South Korean authorities are asserting the "theory of unifying systems," dreaming of amalgamation through absorption by relying on foreign forces. This is a wild fancy which will never come true forever because neither of the North and the South wants to concede its own and it will inevitably cause confrontation and conflicts and an irretrievable national disaster.

I consider that the great principle of defining the method of national reunification and the proposal of convening a political consultative conference for national reunification to reach a nationwide agreement on the method, which were advanced by the great leader, are fair and aboveboard realistic ones which take into consideration the specific conditions of our country, the requirements of our nation and even the demands of the political forces in South Korea and the only correct guideline which makes it possible to smoothly solve the question of reunification.

Pak Su-tong expressed the hope that the South Korean peasants would also take an active part in the reunification movement, send their delegates to the political consultative conference for national reunification to confirm the method of national reunification and sit together with us.

Southerners Demand Halt to U.S. TV Programs

SK1301030891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—U.S. TV programs are aired in South Korea these days to paralyze the national awakening and consciousness of independence of youth and children.

The South Korean authorities, on the instructions of the U.S. imperialists, committed another crime by "permitting" the U.S forces in South Korea to receive programs from TV satellites and air them as a means of the penetration of U.S. monopoly capital intensified in recent years and the U.S. imperialist aggression forces' permanent occupation of South Korea.

Thus the U.S. imperialist aggression forces command is relaying video records of commercial TV broadcasting stations of the United States for 19 hours a day and the programs contain commercial advertisements, entertainment, violences, sex descriptions, etc.

People of different sections in South Korea are now strongly demanding a halt to the screening of the U.S. TV programs which make youth and children mentally and physically degenerate.

No Accused of Hindering DPRK-Japan Relations

SK1201064591 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0023 GMT 12 Jan 91

[NODONG SINMUN 12 January editorial: "They Must Not Hinder the Normalization of Relations Between the DPRK and Japan"]

[Text] On 9 January, traitor No Tae-u reportedly discussed the issue of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan with Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu, who was visiting Seoul. During his meeting with the Japanese prime minister, he begged Japan to proceed with negotiations for normalizing diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan in step with progress in the North-South dialogue; to ensure that the North allows nuclear inspection; and to reconsider Japan's compensation to the North for the 45 post-war years.

As the entire world knows, the normalization of relations between the DPRK and Japan is a matter that—according to the joint declaration of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], Japan's Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], and the Japan Socialist Party [JSP]—the governments of the DPRK and Japan will resolve in accordance with the will and interests of the peoples of the two countries and in the direction of contributing toward peace on the Korean peninsula and her reunification and peace in Asia and the world in general. No Tae-u, a colonial running dog, said something about this issue and meddled in it. This is preposterous. This act by traitor No Tae-u is a rash antinational, divisionist act designed to drive a wedge between us and Japan, thus putting a brake on the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan, and even to drag Japan into their criminal maneuvers and to preserve North-South confrontation and division.

As exposed, when discussions started on the issue of the normalization of relations between the DPRK and Japan, the South Korean ruling bunch ran amok as if this issue may cause it a fatal crisis and kicked up all sorts of maneuvers to put a brake on the normalization effort, while stating that Japan must have prior consultations with them, must act with prudence in step with progress in the North-South dialogue, and must not cooperate with the DPRK before diplomatic relations are established, and that the North must sign the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement.

The South Korean puppets are trying to link the issue of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan to the North-South dialogue. This is absurd. As stated in the joint declaration among the WPK, Japan's LDP, and the JSP, the issue of normalizing diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan is based upon the reunification-oriented position and attitude that Korea is one and must be reunified without fail. If diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan are normalized, which is beneficial to the people of the DPRK and Japan and which will contribute to peace in Asia and the world in general, this will surely also be favorable to peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

The No Tae-u ring asked Japan to proceed with negotiations for normalizing diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan in step with progress in the North-South dialogue. Viewed from the fact that they have been reluctant to make progress in the North-South dialogue, this is tantamount to begging Japan to keep step with them. This means that diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan must not be normalized.

The South Korean puppets presented the North's signing of the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement as a precondition for normalizing relations between the DPRK and Japan. This too is preposterous. We have not been able to sign the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency because the United States, which has deployed approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea and which also must fulfill its duties stipulated in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons, does not guarantee that it will remove threats of nuclear attack against our country, a nuclear-free country. We will sign the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement only under the condition that the United States legally guarantees that it will not make nuclear threats.

After laying aside its treacherous act of having turned South Korea into the United States' biggest forward nuclear base in the Far East, the No Tae-u ring is trying to groundlessly find fault with us, a country that has no nuclear weapons, and to use this issue as a trump card to prevent the improvement of relations between the DPRK and Japan. This again clearly exposes its dirty colors as the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war servant.

No Tae-u made such appeals this time in order to put a brake on and hinder the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan. The No Tae-u ring has not shown any sincerity in its talks with us for the reunification of the country, has devotedly maneuvered to preserve division, and is trying to halt negotiations for normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan. This is an unforgivable crime that challenges peace on the Korean peninsula, reunification, and peace and stability in Asia.

No Tae-u said in his 7 July declaration that he would not oppose allied countries establishing relations with the North. What he has done proves that his 7 July declaration was a sham. Early this year, turning a blind eye to our peaceful reunification proposal, the No Tae-u ring made the absurd antireunification remarks that it would not make haste in dealing with the reunification issue and is carrying out entreaty diplomacy designed to pursue anticommunist confrontation and the permanent division of the nation.

The situation within and around South Korea shows that, after abandoning dialogue with us and reunification, the No Tae-u ring has dragged not only the United States but also Japan, which is located in its vicinity, into its persistent maneuvers for North-South confrontation and perpetual division. However, the mean maneuvers by the puppets will only end in shameful failure.

The popular masses are the main forces of history. No matter how hard the reactionaries of history may run amok, as long as the people of the DPRK and Japan want it and as long as the world's peace-loving people support it, the issue of normalizing diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan will surely be resolved. The No Tae-u ring must immediately stop its cunning maneuvers to hinder the improvement of relations between the DPRK and Japan and must assume an affirmative attitude in negotiations with us for improving North-South reunification and achieving peace in the country and her peaceful reunification. The issue of normalizing relations between the DPRK and Japan must be not toyed with by such colonialist running dogs as the No Tae-u ring and must be urgently resolved according to the joint declaration of the WPK, Japan's LDP, and the JSP.

Soviet Official Supports Kim's New Year Address

SK1201140191 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] On 10 January, Mikhail Titarenko, director of the Far East Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, gave an interview to a Korean Central News Agency correspondent in Moscow, supporting the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's new policy for the reunification of the fatherland which was elucidated in his New Year address this year.

He said that the DPRK President Comrade Kim Il-song elucidated an important method in his New Year address this year of promoting the cause of Korea's reunification and continued to say that President Kim Il-song's policy for the reunification of the fatherland which he proposed this time is truly a practical proposal which will overcome distrust and misunderstanding between North and South Korea and which will achieve in the near future the nation's peaceful reunification in accordance with the interest of the people of the North and South.

The proposal presented by him prevents the nation's division and reflects the warm intention of the Korean people who want to achieve reunification. Also, this proposal positively proves that the DPRK President Comrade Kim Il-song is invariably making efforts to achieve the nation's reunification through a peaceful and democratic way.

He said that in the DPRK President Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address, he talked about the issue of achieving ahead of schedule the reunification of the fatherland which is to guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula and provide a peaceful condition for the reunification of the fatherland as soon as possible. Mikhail Titarenko expressed complete approval of his remarks.

Mikhail Titarenko continued to say that under the current situation, Korea's reunification is possible only through peaceful means and also the issue of guaranteeing peace which was emphasized in Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address, is especially important and is a principle issue.

If a war breaks out in Korea under today's situation, this will not only be harmful to Korea's reunification but it will jeopardize the existence of the Korean nation itself. Therefore, I feel that guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula is the most pending issue.

From this aspect, I believe that the peace proposal made by the DPRK has great significance. Recently, the DPRK, on various occasions, put forth peaceful initiatives to achieve the nation's reunification ahead of schedule.

Director Mikhail Titarenko talked about the issue of concluding the method of Korea's reunification which was emphasized in the New Year address and continued to say that President Kim Il-song emphasized that the reunification of the fatherland should be realized by establishing a confederal system based on one nation, one state, two systems, and two governments, on the principle of neither side conquering the other or being conquered by the other. This proposal of his is very positive.

The South side is babbling that the North side is communizing South Korea and is trying to invade the South. Therefore, for President Kim Il-song to propose the reunification method which is to establish a confederal system in his New Year address is very important.

This also vividly shows the correct and firm position of the DPRK's efforts for reunification. I believe that this is a constructive method which is mutually acceptable in achieving ahead of schedule Korea's reunification.

I believe that this proposal which President Kim Il-song proposed will bring about a great response from the South Korean social circles. Therefore, I believe that it is important to promote and fulfill this method as soon as possible.

Soldiers' Meeting Welcomes Military Delegation

SK1301025791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—A meeting of soldiers of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces was held at the February 8 House of Culture this afternoon to welcome the Soviet military delegation headed by Gen. K. Kochetov, first vice-minister of defence. Addressing the meeting, Gen. Kim Kwang-chin of the Korean People's Army said that the delegation's visit to Korea will mark an occasion favourable to strengthening solidarity between the Korean and Soviet armies and further developing friendly and cooperative relations between them.

Today, the Soviet Armed Forces are striving hard to defend the security of the country, regarding it as their only task to serve the people, he said.

We, he noted, sincerely hope that the Soviet Armed Forces would achieve fresh success in their struggle to increase the defence capabilities of the country and safeguard peace and security of the world.

Our party and the government of our Republic are exercising patient efforts to ease the situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula and create a favourable climate for national reunification, he said.

The South Korean authorities refused to accept our most realistic, fair and aboveboard proposal for the adoption of a nonaggression declaration, still laying big obstacles in the way of national reunification, he said, adding:

Our people and People's Army soldiers, guided by the great leader and the great party, will accomplish the historical cause of national reunification by the united efforts of the whole nation amidst positive support and encouragement of the peaceloving and progressive people of the world including officers and men of the Soviet Armed Forces, thus making the 1990's a decade of reunification without fail.

Noting that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean and Soviet armies are developing favourably, he stressed: We set store by friendship with the Soviet Armed Forces and will actively strive in the future, too, to consolidate and develop traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two armies.

Gen. K. Kochetov spoke next.

We view the present Korean visit of the delegation as a token of the friendly relations linking the Soviet Union and the DPRK and the armies of our two countries and a proof that these friendly relations will strengthen and develop in favour of the reliable defence of the peaceful labour of the two peoples in the future, too, he said, adding:

The relaxation of the international tensions and the reduction of Armed Forces and armaments not only in the Soviet Union but also in West nations have set afloat among certain public circles the wrong view that the military danger does not exist at all at present.

Such imprudent estimation can neither be acceptable nor be useful in the least in working out a military policy and a long-range plan of army building.

What plays a big role in the cause of peace under the present international situation is to further develop the friendly relations between our two countries.

We positively appreciate the state of Soviet-Korean military cooperation and regular mutual contact, he said, and went on:

I would like to assure you that the Soviet people support the desire of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reunify the country in a peaceful way and on the democratic basis. We fully approve your policy to end the military confrontation on the Korean peninsula, reduce Armed Forces of the North and the South, get foreign troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and turn the whole Korean territory into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

Saying that he could witness achievements made by the Korean people during his stay in Korea, he stressed: Our visit to military setups and meeting with servicemen of the Korean People's Army give us the ground to state that the task to defend peace and stability of your country is being reliably fulfilled.

He wished the soldiers of the Korean People's Army great success in their military service for the welfare of the country under the leadership of Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

O Chin-u Accepts USSR Delegation's Gift for Kim

SK1401053591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 14 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a gift from the Ministry of Defence of the USSR.

The gift was handed to Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u Sunday by First Vice-Minister of Defence of the USSR General K. Kochetov on a visit to Korea.

O Chin-u Meets Soviet Military Delegation

SK1401051091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 14 (KCNA)—Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u met and conversed Sunday with the visiting Soviet military delegation headed by General K. Kochetov, first vice-minister of defence.

The head of the delegation said that through their visit they were deeply moved to see the successes made by the Korean people and the People's Army in socialist construction and in increasing defence capabilities.

Saying that the Korean People's Army is a well-prepared army strong in organisation and discipline, he stressed that the delegation's visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was aimed to further strengthen and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the Soviet and Korean peoples and Armies.

The friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will strengthen and develop forever in the future, too, he said.

Present on the occasion were General of the Korean People's Army Kim Kwang-Chin and Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Soviet Embassy here Boris Morozov.

Latvians Protest Three-Fold Food Price Hikes

SK1001020491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] According to a TASS report, the retail price of foodstuffs in Latvia has on the average increased by 3.2 times since 7 January. The price of some foodstuffs has soared even more—by four or five times.

A statement issued 6 January by the Latvian Government said that the price hike of foodstuffs was a result of an increase in the cost of production.

The rise in retail prices of foodstuffs is creating dissatisfaction among the residents. On the morning of 8 January, thousands of citizens in the Latvian capital flocked toward the Republic's Supreme Soviet building and strongly protested the rise in prices and the policy of the Latvian leadership.

Daily on U.S. 'Design for Nuclear Preponderance'

SK0701050291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—There were nine underground nuclear tests in Nevada, the United States, last year.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today views this as an indication that the U.S. ruling quarters' design for nuclear preponderance has not changed a whit.

To seek nuclear preponderance is a crucial requisite to the U.S. world strategy, the news analyst says, and continues:

The United States intends to overwhelm socialism with military superiority, nuclear preponderance, and thus realise world supremacy.

The U.S. Government is hell bent on the development and production of new-type nuclear weapons in a bid to gain nuclear superiority.

The United States, while reducing or eliminating nuclear weapons of old types, has developed sophisticated, high-powered new-type ones on an extensive scale. Among them are nuclear bombs designed to destroy the "enemy's" military and political headquarters deep underground in the wartime, new-type underwater nuclear bombs and other warheads of formidable destructive power.

The United States plans to produce 600 warheads this year and manufacture 3,500 warheads of new types in five years beginning next year.

In withdrawing nuclear weapons, the U.S. imperialists avert their eyes from the region fraught with a big danger of a nuclear war. While partially withdrawing their nuclear weapons from Europe, the United States is reinforcing their nuclear armed forces in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the Korean peninsula over which dark clouds of a nuclear war are hanging. The United States is not only reinforcing nuclear weapons and their delivery means in South Korea but also running high fever in nuclear war manoeuvres there.

It is going to stage this year, too, the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test war and a preliminary war for dealing a forestalling strike at the DPRK with nuclear weapons.

The United States claims that its nuclear weapons are a "deterrent". But this is a lie.

If the United States truly wants world peace, it must stop the production and test of nuclear weapons, totally eliminate them and withdraw its aggression forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea and other parts of the world.

Delegations Depart for PRC, Arrive From PRC

SK0801120191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—A delegation of the DPRK Olympic Committee headed by its Chairman Kim Yu-son left here today by plane for a visit to China.

Earlier, Xu Shuyun, deputy chief of the division of the Asian-Pacific region of the United Nations Population Fund, arrived here.

Cultural Exchange Plan With PRC Signed

SK2912044090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] Beijing December 28 (KCNA)—A cultural exchange plan for 1991-1992 was signed in Beijing on December 28 between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China.

It was signed by Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries O Mun-han who is heading a DPRK Government cultural delegation to China, and Vice-Minister of Culture of China Liu Deyou.

Pyongyang To Host Normalization Talks With Japan

SK1301025491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1523 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The first full-dress inter-governmental talks for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations will be held in Pyongyang from January 30, 1991.

Participating in it on our side will be a DPRK Government delegation headed by Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and on the Japanese side by a Japanese Government delegation headed by Noboru Nakahira, specially appointed ambassador at vice-ministerial level of the Foreign Ministry.

Kim Chong-il Greeted by Koreans in Japan

SK0401090191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of new year greetings from the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Teachers in Japan, the Standing Council of the Central Educational Association of Koreans in Japan, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Credit Associations in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Social Scientists in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Scientists and Technicians in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Literary Men and Artists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Students Studying at Japanese Schools, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Buddhists in Japan, and other organizations under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnon), their affiliated organizations, the CHOSON SINBO, the Korean News Service, the Kuwol Sobang Publishing House, the Kumgangsan opera troupe, the Korea-Japan Export and Import Corporation, the Tonghae Trading Company, Ltd., the Kumgang Insurance Company, Ltd. And other organs, the local headquarters of Chongnon, Choson University and Korean schools at all levels in Japan and Koreans of different strata in Japan.

The messages highly lauded the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il who performed immortal exploits in socialist construction in the motherland and the ideological and theoretical activities to develop in depth the great chuche idea last year.

The messages expressed the firm resolution of the Koreans in Japan to devotedly take part in the patriotic work of Chongnon under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

They sincerely wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cuba

SK1001114491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—An agreement on economic and technological cooperation in the construction of hydroelectric power stations between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Cuba was signed here today.

The agreement was signed by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs, and head of the visiting Cuban Government economic delegation Ernesto Melendez Bachs, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

An agreement on economic and technological cooperation in the production of vertical pumps between the Governments of Korea and Cuba was also signed.

Palestinian Envoy Hosts Pyongyang Reception

SK0801052091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Mustafa al-Safarini, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Korea, hosted a reception Monday on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the start of revolution in Palestine and the 2nd anniversary of the foundation of the state.

Invited there were Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang and other officials concerned, Chief of the Pyongyang Mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front Cho Il-min and foreign diplomatic envoys here.

Mustafa al-Safarini made a speech there.

He expressed thanks and paid homage to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for the principled and steadfast stand they have always shown for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Referring to Korea's reunification question, he voiced unquestioned support to all the peace proposals made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, particularly the proposal advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song to reunify the country through confederation based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments.

Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song-nam spoke next.

He elaborated on the significance of the first torch of armed struggle kindled by the Palestinian people and resistance fighters under the leadership of respected Comrade Yasir 'Arafat on January 1, 1965.

The Korean people invariably extend full support and solidarity to the Palestinian people's struggle of justice, he declared.

Noting that to find a solution to the Palestinian issue is a matter of key importance in ensuring peace and security in the Middle East, he said that the Israeli invaders must withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and the national right to self-determination of the Palestinian people be completely guaranteed.

Ministry Spokesman Statement on Korean Peace

SK1401020891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Press statement issued by the spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry on 13 January in Pyongyang—read by announcer]

[Text] The world's attention recently has been focused on Asian affairs. In addition, various proposals and assertions on peace, security, and cooperation in this region have been made.

Some countries have presented their concepts of forming a security and cooperation organization modelled on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Other countries have objected to forming an European-style security consultative organization in Asia. Asia should become Asia for the sake of the Asian peoples. To this end, all countries in this region should unite themselves to enhance their right to speak as the masters of Asia.

We are of the opinion that if the industrious and gifted Asian peoples unite themselves and closely cooperate with each other on the principle of independence, equality, and reciprocity, they can end the hegemonic policy that major powers have toward Asia, achieve security and common prosperity in Asia, and greatly contribute to the cause of peace in the world.

The Asian countries should achieve political detente in their mutual relations. To this end, they should solve disputes by negotiations. At the same time, they should march toward establishing relations by transcending differences in ideas, systems, and political lines and toward expanding and developing them.

In addition, they should use regional economic cooperative organizations to set any restrictions on mutual economic exchanges and multilateral cooperation. As for peace and security in Asia, the Asian peoples, for all intents and purposes, should settle the issues in an Asian style as the masters of Asia.

In our opinion, applying to Asia such an organization as one modelled after the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe does not comply with Asian realities. The Asian security situation is different from Europe's. Many unsettled issues remain in Asia in which the some countries' interests are at variance.

To guarantee peace and security in Asia, the Soviet Union and the United States, which have great military power in this region, should initiate the process of arms reduction. We regard this as a prerequisite for establishing a security system in Asia.

Bilateral military treaties with Asian countries should be abolished, and all foreign troops and military bases should be withdrawn from this region. In particular, the United States must withdraw its nuclear weapons deployed in nonnuclear Asian countries, make a binding legal commitment not to threaten them with nuclear weapons, and not thwart but honor the efforts of Asian countries to denuclearize this region.

The United States, which is directly responsible for the peace issue on the Korean peninsula, must end its dangerous war policy of using power, sign a peace agreement with us at an early date, withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea, and remove its nuclear threat to us.

As in the past, our Republic will also further develop friendly and cooperative relations with the Asian peoples, struggle for the easing of tension and durable peace on the Korean peninsula, and actively join in the joint efforts of the Asian peoples to build an independent, peaceful, and prosperous Asia. [Dated] 13 January 1991, Pyongyang

Kim Chong-il, Foreign Leaders Exchange Cards

SK0401120391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—On the new year 1991, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il exchanged new year's cards with Deng Xiaoping, former president of the Military Commission of the Central Committee [CC] of the Communist Party of China; Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the C.C., the CPC; Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China; Li Veng, premier of the State Council of the PRC; Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress [NPC] of the PRC; Chen Yun, chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the Communist Party of China; Li Xiannian, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC; Yao Yilin, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the CPC and vice-premier of the State Council of the PRC; Song Ping, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the CPC; Li Ruihuan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau and member of the Secretariat of the C.C., the CPC; Li Ximing, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the CPC and secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee; Tian Jiyun, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the CPC and vice-premier of the State Council of the PRC; Wu Xueqian, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the CPC and vice-premier of the State Council of the PRC; Wang Zhen, vice-president of the PRC; Song Reqiong, vice-chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the Communist Party of China; Xi Zhongxun, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Peng Zhen, former chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC of the PRC; Deng Yingchao, former chairwoman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Mian Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and commander-in-chief of the Palestinian Revolutionary Armed Forces; Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Party and president of the Republic of Mozambique; and Major Pierre Buyoya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and president of the Republic of Burundi.

He also exchanged new year's cards with Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, first vice-president of the Council of State and minister of the Revolutionary

Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, and Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction.

He received new year's cards from Jorge del Prado, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party; Andres Reggiardo Sayan, national secretary general of the "Cambio 90" Movement [Change 90 Party] of Peru; and Sean Garland, general secretary of the Worker's Party of Ireland.

Kim Chong-il Receives New Year Greetings

SK0801011991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—On the new year 1991, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia; Blaise Compaore, chairman of the People's Front and head of state and Government of Burkina Faso; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; Habimana Bonaventure, general secretary of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development of Rwanda; Vasos Lyssaridhis, chairman, and Takis Hadjidemetriou, secretary general, of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Cyprus; Ludo Martens, chairman of the Central Committee of the Belgian Labour Party; Rolando Brena Pantoja, president of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru; Sam Marcy, chairman of the Workers' World Party of the United States; and Guillermo Garcia Ponce, general secretary of the "New Alternative" of Venezuela.

The messages warmly congratulate Comrade Kim Chong-il and wish him good health and long life.

KCNA Reviews 14 Jan NODONG SINMUN

SK1401054191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN reports that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a gift from the Soviet Ministry of Defence.

According to the paper, President Kim Il-song received a message from Shahabuddin Ahmed in reply to the message of greetings upon his assumption of office as acting president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The new year address of President Kim Il-song for this year was reported by foreign news media, says the paper.

The paper gives an account of a meeting of working people in South Hwanghae Province to carry through the new year address of president Kim Il-song for this year and his recent teachings.

A NODONG SINMUN article says that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il laid stress on intensifying education among the party members and other working people so that they may cherish loyalty as their revolutionary obligation.

The paper editorially calls for winning a greater victory in socialist construction with the might of single-hearted unity.

It is reported in the paper that the International Institute of the Chuche Idea published magazine "STUDY OF THE CHUCHE IDEA" No. 51.

The paper informs the readers that the Namhung youth chemical complex is increasing the production of chemical fertilizer and cooperative farms are making preparations for new year farming.

Carried in the paper is a statement issued by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regarding different proposals and arguments raised in some countries around the world over the question of peace, security and cooperation in the Asian region.

According to the paper, the general secretary of the People's Unity Party of Tunisia met with the Korean Ambassador.

Given in the paper is an account of the sojourn of the Soviet military delegation in Korea.

A plan on scientific cooperation between the Korean and Polish academies of sciences was signed, says the paper.

"Road to Nationwide Dialogue for Reunification Should Be Opened" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

Conveyed in the paper are voices of foreign guests lauding the superiority of our socialist system.

The paper carries an account of a meeting of foreign ship crews supporting our new proposal for national reunification held in Nampo port.

The paper reports that Bangladeshi organisations and the chuche idea study organisations of Uganda issued joint statements in support of the DPRK new proposal for national reunification.

South Korean news includes reports that the puppet minister of national defence uttered a "dispatch of combat forces may be examined" in case the gulf situation is aggravated and that the South Korean authorities made public the decision to send 150 odd-member "military medical group" to the gulf region.

The U.S. imperialists committed aerial joint war exercises and aerial espionage, says the paper.

The paper informs the readers that a spokesman for the Chinese State Council elaborated on the targets of economic growth for this year, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba in an interview with the Chilean magazine ANALYSIS laid stress on defending socialism, and an opening ceremony of the National Defence Academy was held in Cuba.

It is reported in the paper that the director general of the UNESCO issued a statement calling for the peaceful settlement of the gulf crisis, the American public circles and members of the Parliament of India opposed a war in the gulf area and the U.S. vice-president cried for the use of armed forces there.

The paper reports that the Soviet paper PRAVDA carried the gist of a NODONG SINMUN article titled "'Peace' and 'Detente' Are Imperialists' Art of Disguise" and the Soviet Union made public a statement on the apprehension of its ship by U.S. and Spanish naval ships.

The paper conveys news of achievements in the building of a new society in Laos, Bangladesh and Malaysia.

The economy in the United States is stagnant and the economic situation in Poland is worsening, says the paper.

In an article entitled "Irresistible Echo of Anti-Imperialist Independence" the paper calls upon the peoples of the developing countries in the building of a new society to heighten their revolutionary vigilance against the imperialists' crafty and vicious subversive moves and sabotages.

Decree on Kim Il-song Youth Prize Issued

SK0301052191 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Decree by the Central People's Committee]

[Text] The DPRK Central People's Committee issued a decree awarding Kim Il-song youth honorary prize to Comrade Yi Tong-kun, chairman of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea of the large-scale repair station in Chongjin steel station, because he has been infinitely loyal to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, prepared himself to be a chuche- oriented communist revolutionary, and set an example in the construction of an oxydant rotating coal furnace.

Decree on Kim's Juvenile Honorary Prize Issued

SK0301114991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Decree of Central People's Committee]

[Text] The DPRK Central People's Committee issued a decree awarding the Kim Il-song juvenile honorary prize to meritorious members of the Juvenile Corps who have set an example in a the performance of mass gymnastics.

It is noted in the decree that Kim Il-song juvenile honorary prize is awarded to members of the Juvenile Corps who have deeply cherished loyalty toward the respected and beloved father, Marshal Kim Il-song, and toward dear leader Kim Chong-il, have set an example in studying and in leading an organized life in the Juvenile Corps, and have contributed to successfully guaranteeing the performance of the large-scale collective gymnastics, "Single- Hearted Unity," as follows:

Yu Yun-mi, a student at Pyongyang Kwangbok higher-middle school.

Kim Chol-kyong, a student at Pyongyang Pyonchon higher-middle school.

Kim Yong-sil, a student at Pyongyang Tongmun higher-middle school.

Choe Yon-hwa, a student at Pyongyang Yongnam higher-middle school.

Hyon Chol-nam, a student at Pyongyang Yongguk higher-middle school.

Kim Signs Decree Giving Medal to Labor Hero

SK0301130791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Decree of the Central People's Committee]

[Text] The DPRK Central People's Committee issued a decree awarding the title of the DPRK labor hero, a gold medal, a hammer and sickle, and the Order of the National Flag First Class to Comrade Kim Hae-yong, manager of the Chongjin steel station of the Kim Chaek smeltering complex, who has long worked in the metal industry while upholding the leadership of the party, studied and completed a new metallurgical method with our own materials and fuels, and applied the method of production by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude under the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and thus greatly contributed to the development of the national metal industry.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, DPRK President

[Dated] 26 December 1990, Pyongyang

'Expanding Economic Achievements' in 1991 Reported

SK0901105591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—Korea is expanding economic achievements in the new year.

The Ministry of Railways has transported 40,000 more tons of freight on a daily average entering this year than the daily average in December last year.

In the last four days, the Komdok mining complex increased the output of lead and zinc over 40 percent over last year's peak in terms of metal content.

Some units of the southern pit of the Nampung mine under the complex have overfulfilled their January mining plans.

The forestry stations in Ryanggang Province overfulfilled their first-day plans and produced some 2,000 more cubic metres of logs in three days than their assignments.

Production is also picking up at the cement factories across the country. The output at the February 8 cement complex thus far is 30 percent above that in the corresponding period last year.

The October 5 general automation plant fulfilled its first day production quota of ordered equipments for major construction projects at 200 percent and the Samsin coal mine continues making innovations after carrying out the first day coal production plan at 120 percent.

DPRK Political Bureau Member Attends Rally

SK0401055291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Excerpts] On the afternoon of 30 December, a rally of workers of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex was held on the spot to pledge thorough implementation of the programmatic teachings that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave to the complex on 24 and 25 December. [passage omitted]

The rally was attended by Comrade So Yun-sok, Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Political Bureau member, responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial party committee, and South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee chairman; and other functionaries concerned together with the workers of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex. The rally began with singing the Song of General Kim Il-song. Myong Yong-pok, secretary of the party committee of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex, made a report. [passage omitted]

So Yun-sok Attends Cooperative Farm Rally

SK0501050991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpts] On the afternoon of 3 January, a rally of the Wonhwa cooperative farm members in Pyongan County was held on the spot, to thoroughly implement this year's militant tasks that were proposed by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year's address. [passage omitted]

Comrade So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, responsible secretary of the party of South Pyongan Province, and chairman of the People's Committee of South Pyongan Province; Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea; and other functionaries concerned, participated in the rally with the agricultural workers of the Wonhwa cooperative farm.

The rally started with singing the General Kim Il-song song. First of all, Cho Chang-kwon, secretary of the Wonhwa-ri party committee, made a report. [passage omitted]

Production in Various Industries Viewed

SK0401112991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—A great upswing is being effected in production in all domains of the national economy of Korea.

The workers in the metal industry increased the production of iron and steel 27 percent in the first two days of the new year as against the same days of last year.

The Chollima Steel Complex overfulfilled the first day production assignments one percent in steel and 2.1 times in seamless steel pipe and carried out by far the production quota of rolled steel set twice as much as that of the same day last year.

The smelters of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex turned out 20 percent more molten iron than planned.

The Nampo Smeltery Complex overfulfilled the production plan of non-ferrous metals five percent in the first two days.

The railway workers also achieved success in the campaign for more haulage through revolutionary efforts in transport.

The West Pyongyang Locomotive Corps overfulfilled the New Year Day assignment of transport ten percent.

Transport of more cargo than planned was also reported at many stations and locomotive corps under the western and eastern general railway bureaux.

A new upswing is being brought about in the power industry.

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex carried out the power production quotas at 104.2 percent on an average in the first two days. The Pukchang thermal power complex produced 1.2 times as much electricity as was turned out in the same days of last year.

Factory Colleges Graduate 10,000 People

SK0801111191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Korea is successfully developing the study-while-working educational system.

Nearly 10,000 workers, farmers and fishermen finished their college courses while at work last year to join a huge contingent of intellectuals.

146 workers of different industrial establishments including the Pyongyang textile combine graduated from the Pyongyang College of Technology and 297 workers from the Sosong College of Technology and the Pyongchon College of Technology and got qualification of textile, chemical, machine, electrical, automation and electronic engineers.

A large number of technicians and intellectuals have been produced by Kusong, Kaechon, Pyongsong and Sinuiju Colleges of Technology and other factory colleges across the country.

Fishermen of Sinpo, Yanghwa, Hongwon and other fishery stations graduated from fishermen's colleges and many farmers graduated from farmers' colleges.

In order to assimilate the whole of society to the intelligentsia, Korea is actively developing the educational system of study-while-working along with the full-time study system.

Last year, the Amnokgang College of Technology and the Sonbong College of Agriculture were founded and a branch of the Pohang College of Technology was set up at the Chongjin chemical fibre complex.

More than 100 factory colleges, farmers' colleges and fishermen's colleges have been set up in Korea since the foundation of the first factory college in 1951 when the Fatherland Liberation War was at its height.

Prefabricated Housing Factory Described

SK0801152291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang August 17 prefabrication plant is situated south of the capital city.

The plant went into production in March last year. Since then it has massproduced large-sized prefab parts needed for housing construction including wall blocks spanning two rooms, large floor blocks and prefabricated toilet room blocks. A computerized automatic line has been introduced in production. It can annually produce prefab parts for 3,500 flats.

The wall blocks spanning two rooms are walls of 6.6 by 2.75 metres with metal doors and windows attached. After assembling glasses are fixed in place.

The large floor block is 21.6 square metres and it has in it all distributing wires including the electric wire, telephone line and general tv antenna leadin, to say nothing of heating pipe.

The prefabricated toilet room block is divided into toilet and bathroom compartments. It is a flush toilet and the bathroom has a tiled wash-basin and bathtub.

These prefab parts are highly popular with builders as they help raise the speed of construction and its quality, while saving a large amount of materials and manpower.

The construction of prefabricated houses is progressing apace in Tongil Street resembling a big city in the area south of the Taedong River in Pyongyang.

High-rise apartment houses for 800 families were erected with these prefab parts in one month at the end of last year.

The producers of large prefab parts a conducting a vigorous drive for increased production from the beginning of the year with the determination to brilliantly decorate this year with greater achievements.

Scientists Develop New Farm Machinery

SK0801152391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1458 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Korean scientists in the domain of agriculture have of late developed ten odd new farm machines.

A new cell fusion machine manufactured by the agrobiology institute can originate new high-yielding seeds by fusing different plant cells in the shortest time.

With its use it is possible to ensure a proper fusion of different plant cells with strong vitality without chemical reagents and obtain new species irrespective of season.

A machine made by the institute can kill barnyard grass in 10,000 square metres of rice-seedling beds a day by taking advantage of the biological characteristics of rice and barnyard grass.

The newly developed machines are highly appreciated by experts for their great economic value.

The Agricultural Mechanisation Institute manufactured a small rice harvester capable of harvesting rice in 15,000 square metres a day and a small cornstalk cutter capable of cutting cornstalks in more than 10,000 square metres daily.

Besides, a small sowing machine, a small sprayer of agricultural chemicals, a cold wind unhulled rice dryer and other highly efficient farm machines have been developed.

South Korea

Iraqi Embassy Issues Statement Criticizing Bush

SK1401085591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0842 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—Iraq has accused U.S. President George Bush and American officials of having an "uncivilized" and "arrogant" manner in the course of diplomatic negotiations over the Gulf crisis.

A press release issued by the Iraqi Embassy in South Korea on Monday said, "Wednesday's (Jan. 9) Geneva talks between the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States showed that U.S. President George Bush-...knows little about civilized ways of communicating with others," it said. "The plain fact is that Mr. Bush was impolite in the language he used in his letter..."

"It is a grave mistake for President George Bush to address President Saddam Husayn...by his bare name. Bush in effect is insulting tens of millions of Iraqis and Arabs who respect and follow President Saddam Husayn. Most gradually, Mr. Bush will pay dearly for such a way of behaviour whether in political or military terms," it said.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz refused to accept bush's letter during the talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker because of the "incompatible language," it said, calling Bush "a cowboy whose main aim is to murder and rob others."

CHUNGANG ILBO Interviews Iraqi Official

SK1201083491 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 12 Jan 91 p 4

[Summary of interview with Burhan Ghazal, Iraqi charge in Korea, at the Iraqi Embassy in Korea on 11 January, by reporter Pak Yong-su]

[Text] Iraq is not protesting openly the Korean Government's decision of participating with the multinational forces to dispatch a military medical team of 154 persons to the Persian Gulf, but it seems that Iraq is not satisfied with this decision.

On 11 January, in an interview held at the Iraqi Embassy in Seoul, Charge Burhan Ghazal counterquestioned: "That is an issue which Korea must deal with and which we cannot interfere in. However, will it be of help for peace in the Middle East if your government sends a medical team, and various goods such as medical supplies and shoes to the multinational forces, which the United States is taking the initiative in?"

Charge Ghazal said that the Iraqi people appreciate the Koreans who are continuing to remain in Iraq at a time when many foreigners are leaving, and continued: "If Korea plays the role of mediator in the dialogue between Iraq and the United States, then this will be a fast way to bring about peace."

The following is the summary of an interview with Charge Ghazal at the Iraqi Embassy. Judging by the closed iron gratings at the entrance, it was clear that the Iraqi Embassy—situated in Hannam-tong, Yongsan-ku, Seoul—was concerned about the security.

[Pak Yong-su] Is there a possibility for dialogue between the United States and Iraq before 15 January?

[Ghazal] Because we do not want war, we welcome any kind of proposal regarding the dialogue. However, I would like to emphasize that foreign intervention cannot by any means be a key in resolving the issue in the Middle East region.

[Pak Yong-su] Can't your side make a concession regarding the crisis in the Persian Gulf and in connection with this, the issue of the Palestinians?

[Ghazal] When Israel invaded four Arabian countries in 1967, the United States watched over this invasion with indifference and even after the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution regarding this, the United States and Israel did not fulfill this resolution. This is the reason why we are urging the connection of all Middle East issues.

Advance Medical Team Leaves for Saudi Arabia

SK1401034691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—A 26-member advance team for a Korean medical team to support the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf left for Saudi Arabia on a chartered jet Monday, a government official said. "The date was advanced from Tuesday in consideration of factors such as availability of air transportation and the advance team was sent to the region on Monday on a chartered aircraft," the official said.

"The on-site inspection team will go to Nuairia in northeastern Saudi Arabia, where a 154-member full-scale Korean medical team will be stationed, after discussing details with the government of the Mideast kingdom," he said. Korea promised 220 million U.S. dollars in cash and materials for the multinational forces in the Gulf.

The chartered Korean air plane with the advance team on board left Seoul for Riyadh carrying gas masks and anti-dotes for the 2,000 Korean residents in neighboring gulf states. The 400-seat B-747 will evacuate 300 Koreans from Saudi Arabia and 90 from Jordan on its way home. It is due back Tuesday night.

There are 6,100 Koreans, most construction workers, in the Middle East.

An official of the inter-ministerial gulf task force said, "We are able to deploy only one chartered flight a day because of the airline's situation, but a special flight will be added if we receive the exact number of Korean people who want return from the Middle East."

Controversy Over Sending Combat Troops Reported

SK1201084391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0707 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—A major political storm is gathering as opposition parties and a ruling party faction opened a salvo of harsh criticism Saturday against Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku's remarks Friday hinting at the possibility of sending combat troops to Saudi Arabia.

The groups said they would not support a motion to send a military medical team to the Gulf in the National Assembly session beginning Jan. 24, calling it a step toward sending combat troops. A 154-member medical team will be dispatched to Saudi Arabia as soon as the assembly gives approval and sending combat troops could be considered under some circumstances, Defense Minister Yi said on Friday.

Rep. Pak Sang-chon, spokesman for the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), said Saturday: "The PPD will oppose sending a military medical team and positively check a motion to dispatch combat troops if there is one." "It is a short-sighted point of view and ignores flexibilities in the international economy to say the dispatch of combat troops is good for the national bottom line."

Rep. Chang Suk-hwa, spokesman for the Democratic Party, said his party is resolutely opposed combat troops. "Sending combat troops can never be tolerated for any reason and a wide variety of public opinions should be collected if the government really wants to push for it."

Rep. Chong Mun-hwa, spokesman for the People's Party, said, "It also runs counter to President No Tae-u's promise during his New Year press conference to disapprove any dispatch of combat troops to the conflict-ridden Persian Gulf."

Only the ruling party backed the dispatch of combat troops, which would be only the second time in history that Koreans have gone to war abroad. The first time was in the Vietnamese war. "The army can go anywhere in the world when national interests are at stake, though we also wish that there will be no need even to send the medical team," said Rep. Pak Hui-tae, spokesman for the government's Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

A DLP faction, however, including party Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam and Rep. Pak Kwan-yong, said it supported medical personnel but not combat troops. "It is undesirable for the United States to ask for the dispatch of Korean combatants by linking it to trade issues," they said.

Majority Oppose Combat Troop Deployment to Gulf

SK1301045591 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 13 Jan 91 p 1

[Excerpts] Half our people (54.8 percent) think war will not break out in the Persian Gulf and half our people (54.2 percent) oppose the deployment of combat troops to the Persian Gulf even if war does break out.

CHUNGANG ILBO's Data Bank Bureau conducted a telephone poll on 11 January, right after the talks between the U.S. and Iraqi foreign ministers ended in failure. This survey polled 1,000 adult men and women from across the country. In the poll, 54.8 percent say that war will not break out because of compromises between the United States and Iraq (23.7 percent) or pressures from third countries or the United Nations (31.1 percent).

In the meantime, 23.5 percent say war will break out. [passage omitted]

Regarding measures that our country may take in connection with the Persian Gulf situation, the deployment of a medical team is most favored, followed by economic assistance and deployment of troops. Meanwhile, 49.3 percent support the deployment of a medical team, while 23.5 percent oppose; 36.6 percent support economic assistance, while 36.2 percent oppose; and 24.2 percent support the deployment of troops, while 54.2 percent oppose. [passage omitted]

Also, 85 percent say the ROK economy will be greatly affected if war breaks out, and 50.4 percent say it will be impossible to recover our economy in a short period of time. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, 78.4 percent say "Iraq must unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait." However, the number of those who support the hardline view that if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait, "it must be withdrawn even by using force" (29.3 percent) was fewer than that of those who support the moderate view that "war must be avoided even if Iraq does not withdraw" (49.1 percent). [passage omitted]

Also, 62.6 percent say that even if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, local autonomy elections, scheduled for March, must be held without fail, while only 20.3 percent say that the elections must be postponed. [passage omitted]

Kim Tae-chung Opposes Sending Troops to Gulf

SK1401094791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0916 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—Top South Korean opposition leader Kim Tae-chung roundly denounced the dispatch of Korean troops to the Persian Gulf in a speech to foreign correspondents and diplomats Friday.

"Even if we support all the resolutions of the United Nations, we oppose dispatch of Korean troops to the Middle East because the Korean peninsula is the only area where cold war confrontation has not ended and the Middle East is too far from Korea," the head of Party for Peace and Democracy said.

"I think we should consider any form of cooperation with the United States or the United Nations unless its requests are on the dispatch of Korean combat troops to the Persian Gulf."

On his party's aims for 1991, he said, "The first goal of my party is victory in the local Assembly elections in 1991. What we mean by victory is, above all, to achieve great victory in Seoul and the Cholla Provinces, to occupy the position of the first party in Inchon and Kyonggi Province, Taejon and Chungnam Province, and to secure a firm base in Kangwon, Chungbuk and Kyungsang Provinces."

He said his party would also strive for the revision of controversial laws, solution of the problems related with the people's livelihood and promotion of national reunification.

Touching on Korea's U.N. policy, the opposition leader said, "Our party is against the seating of South Korea alone in the United Nations, which we consider is a policy that isolates North Korea and runs counter to reconciliation and reunification of North and South Korea."

"We believe that it should be decided by the consent of North and South Korea whether they are to have seats in the United Nations simultaneously and separately, or to share a single seat."

Kim again called on the government to propose North Korea mutual opening of television. "Even if North Korea rejects this suggestion, South Korea should open these media onesidedly," he said.

Kim urged North Korea to delete a communist party rule that states the aim of the party is to make both North and South Korea socialist. He said it was necessary if North Korea really wanted peaceful coexistence with South Korea.

On his hopes to visit to Pyongyang, he said, "I strongly want to go there, but I will carefully prepare for my trip to Pyongyang after checking public opinion, the government' policy and the North Korea's position."

Kim hinted that he will once again run for president in 1992, saying a unified front candidate can be chosen if the opposition is united under his leadership.

No Tae-u Not Considering Troop Deployment

SK1201085291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0816 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u firmly stated Saturday that South Korea as of now has neither planned nor considered dispatching combat troops to the Persian Gulf, ruling party spokesman said.

The controverial issue was discussed at a regular weekly meeting between the President and Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, according to party spokesman Pak Hi-tae. Kim, coming out of the meeting at presidential office, quoted the president as saying that the government, as of now, has never planned or studied the possibility of sending battle soldiers to the Gulf, Pak said.

Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku, announcing Friday a plan to dispatch a 154-member medical team to Saudi Arabia around Feb. 1, hinted in a press conference that his government may reconsider its decision not to send combat forces if the Gulf crisis intensifies and the United States or multinational alliance strongly request it.

Reports talking about the possibility of combat troops being sent to the Gulf are totally groundless, Pak said. He added, "carrying on about a non-existent notion is a waste of national energy." "Our party will handle a motion for proposing the dispatch of the medical team at the National Assembly with a conviction that the government plan reflects our full bearing of responsiblities as a member of an international society," he added. A National Assembly extraordinary session is scheduled to open Jan. 24.

Prudent Review of Combat Troops to Gulf Urged

SK1301120991 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 12 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Points Which Should Be Taken Into Consideration in Discussing the Issue of Dispatching Troops to Persian Gulf"]

[Text] With the growing possibility that the situation in the Persian Gulf will evolve into war, discussions of dispatching ground forces appear to be under way. If war starts, we should clearly make a choice to stand on one side or the other.

The issue of dispatching ground troops, unlike offering support funds and dispatching a medical team, has factors which should be carefully reviewed, given the particular situation our country faces.

We ask the government to thoroughly examine these factors before making the decision on dispatching the troops and to work out appropriate measures.

When the U.S. Government requested symbolic support based on international justice, our government, proceeding from the position that it should not be stingy with such a request, decided to incur military expenses amounting to $220 million. At that time, we were concerned about the possibility that the situation might develop into one requiring the dispatch of combat troops.

Concerning such worries, the government repeatedly expressed its position that it is not reviewing the issue of dispatching combat troops, but dispatching a medical team. We consider such basic policy by the government a correct decision.

We hope that the government's basic policy concerning its support for the Persian Gulf situation will be again clarified in the course of National Assembly discussions on the issue of dispatching a medical team and we hope that the limit and scale of the policy will be clearly formulated.

The decision to share military expenses has developed into the issue of sending a medical team. We are now concerned with the possibility of a repeat of this scenario, namely, the request for additional support.

Concerning this issue, a relevant government official revealed, "The government is not considering sending combat troops. However, in the event that the United States and multinational armed forces strongly request such dispatch, and if our refusal may cause loss in national interests, the government will review this issue."

The plan to review this issue for the sake of national interest is, by all means, right and natural. There is no reason that one should oppose this logic.

However, the problem is that the national interests which should be reviewed would not be simple when the request for additional support is made.

The first factor which should be taken into consideration is, above all, our particular security situation. In view of military relations between the North and the South of Korea, which are very sensitive to even a minor change, this factor should be carefully reviewed, lest factors causing uneasiness are left within the nation.

The second factor we must consider is our relations with the Arab world when a war breaks out. If war breaks out, the situation will clearly develop into confrontation between the Arab world and the Israel-Western world. In particular, although many Arab nations are sympathetic to sanctions against Iraq at present, they will possibly turn around if the war develops into confrontation with Israel.

In this situation, we must assume that relations with the Arab world will be hostile. Even if the war ends in victory for the multinational armed forces, given the characteristics of the Arab world, the deep-rooted hostile feelings of all Arab nations against outside forces will not be removed for a long time.

Because of this, most nations in the Western world, including Germany, only extend NATO-level military support, and are not considering dispatching ground combat troops. Using this same logic, the Soviet Union, China and Japan are reluctant to send combat troops.

By following the example of other countries' measures, we, who are in a far more difficult situation in terms of national strength, domestic security, and the Middle East diplomacy, should review the policy on Persian Gulf even more prudently and more carefully.

National Agreement Urged on Any Troop Deployment

SK1301121391 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
13 Jan 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Dispatch of Troops Should Be Based on National Agreement"]

[Text] On 11 January, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku suggested in a round-about way the possibility of dispatching combat troops to the Persian Gulf. The view expressed by the minister of the relevant government office is at first sight different from President No Tae-u's remarks made three days ago that "the government has neither received nor reviewed the request for dispatching combat troops." Thus, Minister Yi's remarks attract our attention. Minister Yi stressed that he "has neither received nor considered the request for dispatching additional medical teams or combat troops." Thus, the remarks of President No and Minister Yi appear outwardly not to contradict each other at present, since there is not any additional request.

However, at this point, we ask the government to discard the principle of excessive secrecy, under which such important policy as the issue of dispatching troops, including a medical team, is decided, and to discard its ambiguous attitude on such policy. People think that when the government decides to send a military medical team, sending combat troops is the inevitable next step. Such thoughts are prompted not only by the experience of the Vietnam war, but also by the strong possibility of sending troops, depending how the situation develops.

This being the case, we, as a dignified independent country, should demonstrate both at home and abroad our ability to wisely judge and decide our problems by ourselves with a national reason that convinces the world. In the past, the government unilaterally decided important matters of state related to the people's life and property, keeping them a secret from the people. The people merely followed the government's decisions without being allowed to voice their opinions. In this process, the government also put forward and stood on national interests, but these interests were not always consistent with national agreement and common notions of the world.

Needless to say, the Vietnam war era a quarter-century ago and the present Persian Gulf situation are different. The Vietnam war was unilaterally decided on by the United States, but the situation this time includes military action agreed upon by major countries of the world, including the United States and the Soviet Union. Twenty-eight countries already constitute the multinational armed forces. We depend on the Persian Gulf for the supply of 72 percent of all our crude oil.

This very site is a powder-keg ready to explode. Thus, it appears that we are in a position of having to make a decision without hesitation, in terms of both our moral obligations and our practical interests.

However, we are not in a position to encourage the immediate dispatch of troops without any hesitation. The act of sending troops itself will not ensure the supply of oil. Moreover, unlike the Vietnam war era, the costs of dispatching, maintaining and operating the troops, whether they are a military medical team or combat units, must be entirely borne by us. Although we will conclude a treaty on the status of our unit within the Saudi Arabian side, the reliability and credibility of the treaty would be doubtful when the war breaks out and disorder results thereafter.

At this stage, we should carefully calculate losses and gains. When we participate in the war, we must be ready for casualties, both dead and wounded. We must also see to it that our country has national reason and the power of persuasion which can justify risking such danger by our sons and brothers.

At the same time, our calculation of such losses and gains should also be acceptable to international society.

Neither a country nor an individual person can live without suffering any loss. In particular, our country is going to use a considerable amount of money for economic cooperation with the Soviet Union and many Eastern European nations as part of our northern policy. We must also give thoughtful consideration to the United States, which shed its blood and used its money for us. The opposition sphere's reaction to Defense Minister Yi's remarks was negative, as we expected. Once bitten, twice shy. But every one of us should think of this issue calmly because one may make a mistake if one speculates too much.

Korean Journalists Advised To Leave Gulf

SK1401121491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1158 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Foreign Ministry advised all South Korean journalists staying in Iraq and Jordan to cover the Gulf crisis to leave the countries immediately.

A Foreign Ministry official said the advice was given in view that the Korean Embassy in Iraq would be unable to offer its good offices to the Korean journalists from Tuesday, the U.N. deadline for Iraqi troops' withdrawal from Kuwait.

Ambassador Choe Pong-num to Iraq has cabled a message to the Foreign Ministry, strongly requesting it to urge the local mass media organizations to evacuate their correspondents from Iraq before Tuesday, the official said.

The Ministry's advice was delivered late Monday afternoon when news of Iraqi legislature's resolution to back President Saddam Husayn's no-concession stand on Kuwait reached Seoul.

Seoul To Send Evacuation Plane to Mideast

SK1201122791 Seoul YONHAP in English 1204 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—The government is to send a special plane Monday to Saudi Arabia and Jordan to fly back some 400 South Koreans remaining in the war-threatened Persian Gulf region, officials said Saturday. A chartered Boeing 747 will be leaving Seoul Monday afternoon and first head to Riyadh Airport in Saudi Arabia and stop over in Amman, Jordan, before returning home Tuesday, officials said.

The plane will also carry to the region gas masks and antidotes to be distributed to some 2,000 Koreans residing in the countries neighboring Iraq for protection against chemical warfare.

The evacuation plan was decided by an inter-ministry emergency task force in its first meeting Saturday. The task force is headed by Second Assistant Vice Foreign Minister Yi Ki-chu. The 400-seat Boeing jet will first fly to Saudi Arabia to pick up about 300 people and head to Jordan to board nearly 100 evacuees from Iraq, officials said.

A three-phase evacuation plan finalized by the task force Saturday places first priority on evacuees from Iraq, then on those in nearby countries wishing to return home, and lastly on about 100 staff members of embassies and company branch offices. Residents in Iraq have been told to leave the country before Jan. 15.

Most of the Koreans in the Gulf region are construction workers. There are nearly 6,100 Koreans in countries close to the Gulf, such as Jordan, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. One task force official said that sending more than one plane a day is difficult under present circumstances, adding that the decision on whether to do so will be made after observing how the situation progresses after Jan. 15. The task force will convene its second meeting on Monday.

Evacuations of Koreans in Iraq, Israel Planned

SK1401051291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0453 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—Of 88 South Koreans still in Iraq, more than 60 will be flown out by Korean Air Tuesday night, Yi Ki-chu, assistant foreign minister in charge of economic affairs, said Monday. Some 20 Koreans, most of them Hyundai construction workers, will leave as soon as visas are issued, Yi said.

"We don't know the exact number of people to return home until they come to Amman, Jordan," officials said. Ambassador Choi Pong-num and other Korean diplomats will leave to a third country after taking care of the evacuation, they said.

The government will also evacuate 110 Koreans, mostly students, from Israel to Egypt because of the increasing danger of war. "In case of the worst situation, the government has contacted the Isreali Embassy in Japan to cooperate in getting Koreans out of the country," he said.

Seoul Asks All Koreans in Iraq, Kuwait To Leave

SK1101104191 Seoul YONHAP in English 1018 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has asked all 104 South Koreans remaining in Iraq and Kuwait to leave before Jan. 15 and advised some 6,100 more in neighboring parts to do the same, cabinet ministers reported to President No Tae-u Friday.

Ministers Yi Sang-ok of foreign affairs, Yi Chong-ku of defense and Yi Hui-il of energy-resources made individual reports on preparations against the Gulf war. The session was attended also by Economic Planning Minister Yi Sung-yun.

Defense minister made detailed reports on dispatch of Korean medical team to Saudi Arabia and security measures in case of war. Energy and resources minister revealed a package of plans aimed at curbing domestic oil consumption, saying a Gulf war would necessitate a 22 percent price hike.

President No is said to have emphasized evacuation and energy supply as key issues and ordered close interministerial consultation and cooperation. Deputy Foreign Minister Yi Chong-pin is to lead an emergency task force with about 16 director-generals that will begin full operation from Saturday, foreign minister said.

Five embassy personnel remain in Iraq, including the ambassador, the minister said, in addition to 90 Korean workers. There are nine more private businessmen still in Kuwait. "We have ordered all Koreans and embassy staff to flee via a third country by Jan. 15," he said.

Chartered planes will be flown to Iraq and nearby countries for their evacuation, and the Ministry is also seeking to bring them across the Jordanian and Iranian borders through railway. The Ministry is also planning to distribute more than 2,000 gas masks to Koreans in the area for protection against possible chemical warfare, Yi said. Some 6,100 Koreans in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain, Arab Emirate and Qatar have also been urged to flee the area, he said. Korean Embassies there have been told to determine their closure as the situation progresses, he added.

Iran Consulted on Koreans' Evacuation From Iraq

SK1001120091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1121 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea is consulting Iran on evacuating 110 Koreans in Iraq, possibly through railway, a government official said Thursday. "The government is reviewing numerous plans in order to bring all Korean residents out of Iraq through all possible methods at soonest date," the well-informed official said.

The Seoul government has requested Iranian cooperation on the matter through the South Korean Embassy there, the official said. Crossing the Iranian border via train is seen as the best route out of Iraq, he said.

Officials at the Korean Embassy in Iraq have been told to decide whether to close down their facilities in line with actions taken by other countries, he said.

In a related development, the Labor Ministry on Thursday asked the Foreign Ministry to support its bid to supply gas masks to all workers stationed in eastern Saudi Arabia and the 1,124 seamen in the war-threatened parts. Koreans in Iraq-neighboring countries have not yet been told to leave the area but to follow closely advices from their embassies, labor officials said.

The 110 Koreans are mostly construction workers, including 73 from Hyundai Construction and Engineering Co., 25 from Samsung Construction Co., and 10 from Hanyang Corp. There are 4,494 more Koreans in adjacent nations, with 3,973 in Saudi Arabia, 271 in Arab Emirate, 197 in Bahrain and 53 in Jordan.

Planned Aid To Frontline Gulf States Reported

SK1201030691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 12 Jan 91

Seoul, Jan. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will complete shipment of aid to nations allied against Iraq in the Persian Gulf by March, government sources said Saturday. Dispatch of the 40 million dollars of nonlethal military supplies and consumer goods will begin around Jan. 20 to Turkey, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt and Syria, they said.

The first delivery will be 1 million dollars of cars and buses to Turkey. Shipment of heavy construction equipment is to begin in March, the sources said. Other goods to be shipped through state-run and private general trading firms includes gas masks, raincoats, uniforms, boots, tents, medical equipment, ambulances, heavy-duty equipment and sugar, they said.

Originally to be sent by the end of last year, the shipments were held up by production delays and lack of agreement with the recipient countries. As the crisis in the Persian Gulf is escalating, the government judged that it could not delay any longer. Morocco is to be given with 2 million dollars in aid, Turkey and Jordan 5 million dollars worth each, Syria 10 million dollars worth and Egypt 15 million dollars worth. The 30,000 tons of rice that Korea had wanted to donate was replaced with equipment and supplies at U.S. request.

Iran Permits Storage of Products if War Begins

SK1301124091 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 13 Jan 91 p 7

[Text] The Iranian Government has made it possible to store Korean export goods bound for the Middle East in

Iran's major port for more than one year without customs procedures, if a war breaks out in the Persian Gulf.

It has also made it possible to bring in these export goods into Iran if they go through regular customs procedures, and for these goods to be taken out to third countries. Therefore, it seems possibile to save some $1 billion which was estimated to be lost in Korea's exports to the Middle East region due to the Middle East crisis.

According to the Tehran office of the Korean Trade Promotion Corporation on 12 January, on 11 January the Iranian Government accepted the request of the trade ministers of neighboring countries and allowed, from this day, Korea's import and export goods bound for Dubai, Bahrain, and Riyadh to be stored in the Iranian port of (Bandijask) and four other major ports of their own countries for one to one and a half years without going through customs procedures, if a war breaks out in the Persian Gulf.

Most important, the Iranian Government will permit these import and export goods that may be stored in Iran's major port to be freely taken out to third countries. Also, if regular customs procedures are followed, these products will be allowed to enter Iran and be sold.

Therefore, it seems that orders for import products through Iran by the import traders of neighboring countries in the Persian Gulf will increase greatly. It also seems that the suspended shipment and business deals of Korea's export products will resume. It is expected that Korea's exports to the Middle East, which had diminished due to the Middle East situation, will become further vitalized.

Last year, Korea exported $2.365 billion in goods to 20 Middle East countries, including Israel. As of late October of last year, Korea exported a total of $405 million in goods to Iran, including $160 million in steel and $58 million in textiles.

Gulf Crisis May Cost Exporters $1 Billion

SK1001030791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—Escalating tension in the Middle East will cost 1 billion to 1.5 billion U.S. dollars this year as South Korean exports were halted, according to officials at the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra).

As of Thursday, general trading companies and small exporters had suspended all export activities in the Gulf region, including negotiations, contracts and shipments, the officials said. The government's total export goal for the year is 69.5 billion dollars.

Jan. 15 is the U.N. Security Council dealine for Iraq to get out of Kuwait.

Exports of textiles, steel products, electric and electronics goods and inner tubes will be slashed.

Estimated export losses in the Middle East for 1991 exceed half Korea's total exports to the region in 1989 of 2.36 billion dollars. January-November 1990 exports hit 2.24 billion dollars.

If crude oil prices rise due to war, Korea's trade deficit will swell from the targeted 7 billion dollars to nearly 10 billion dollars. The damage to Korea's trade in the last four months due to the Gulf situation is estimated at 2.6 billion dollars—600 million dollars in reduced exports and 2 billion dollars in import price hikes of mostly crude oil.

General trading companies such as Daewoo Corp. are preparing to move their offices in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan to safer places.

Construction Orders May Drop $1.3-12.5 Billion

SK1401020191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0123 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—Construction orders in the Middle East will shrink by 1.3 billion U.S. dollars to 12.5 billion dollars this year if there is war in the Persian Gulf, industry sources said Monday. If the crisis is settled peacefully, however, Mideast countries are likely to place construction orders worth 20 billion dollars, up 6.2 billion dollars from last year, the sources said.

A worsening of the situation, they said, would reduce construction in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other frontline states, but the impact on oil prices would enable Iran and Libya to increase large-scale projects such as the great man-made waterway and housing.

Mideast nations issued orders for construction projects worth 12 percent of their revenue from crude in 1989, when income was 119.7 billion dollars from oil. In 1990, contracts were worth 13.8 billion dollars and Korean firms received 5.812 billion dollars worth, including 4.754 billion dollars from Libya, up 303 percent from 1989, the sources said. Korea's dependency on the Mideast construction market has gone up from 60 percent of its overseas contracts to 86 percent.

Korean contractors were awarded overseas orders worth 6.77 billion dollars in 1990, up 181 percent from 1989, and expect the figure to be 3.53 billion dollars this year without war. The largest portion—1.687 billion dollars—will come from Libya, where large-scale housing and petrochemical projects are planned. If there is peace, Korea may take 475 million dollars in orders from Saudi Arabia and 369 million dollars from Iran, the sources said. Among Korean firms, Dong-ah Construction Co. obtained an order of 4.638 billion dollars from Libya's man-made waterway project last year, putting it firmly in top place, followed by Hyundai with 544 million dollars and Daewoo with 526 million dollars.

Ssangyong Pushes for Joint Venture With Aramco

SK1101033391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Ssangyong business group of South Korea is pushing ahead anew with its plans to set up a joint venture refinery with Aramco, the national oil company of Saudi Arabia. The Korean Government denied approval for the partnership in December.

"The ministry has completed a working-level study of the new joint venture proposals submitted by Ssangyong and now policy-making level officials are studying them," sources at the Energy and Resources Ministry said Friday. The sources refused to reveal what changes Ssangyong has made to its plan to get around the ministry's disapproval.

Ssangyong applied for ministry approval for the 50-50 joint venture on Oct. 30 last year, but the ministry turned it down, notifying Aramco directly by telegram.

The energy and resources minister told the National Assembly on Dec. 3 that it was the government's policy not to allow any new participation in the oil refining industry to bring economy of scale and establish competition among Korea's five refiners. Industry insiders say Ssangyong's new tactics largely amount to giving up its refining facilities to the prospective joint venture in order to avoid creating a sixth Korean oil refinery.

Ssangyong had planned to invest 350 million dollars in the joint venture in the form of its Onsan refinery, which can produce 100,000 barrels a day, and a site for the new refinery. Aramco was to invest capital and Arabian heavy oil. The revised plan is thought to add a 60,000-barrel-a-day refinery to the deal and involve transferring the business rights of Ssangyong Oil Refinery Co. and non-oil refining sectors such as benzene toluene xylene (BTX) to the joint venture.

Asked why Ssangyong is so keen on a joining up with Aramco, a company official said, "it is vital to install heavy oil cracking facilities for the development of the domestic oil refining industry as there is only one at home, and a joint venture is unavoidable due to the high cost." Ssangyong finished consultations with Aramco on the new proposal when Kim Son-tong, the firm's vice president, visited Saudi Arabia from Dec. 26 to 28.

Diplomat Killed in Somalia Possibly From North

SK1201024491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—A Korean diplomat reported killed in fighting between rebels and government forces in Mogadishu, Somalia, Thursday night has not been identified and may be North Korean, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The ministry said it was trying to determine the diplomat's identity through third countries as there is no communication with South Koreans in Somalia. South Korean Ambassador Kang Sin-song, Councilor Yi Chang-u and five unidentified Korean nationals took shelter in the Italian embassy in Mogadishu on Thursday, but the Ministry has been unable to contact the Italian embassy for details.

On Monday, the government ordered the embassy to evacuate all South Koreans from Somalia and embassy dependents had already left. Wire reports said one foreigner, believed to be Korean, was killed in the Italian embassy Thursday night.

Italians Evacuate S, N Koreans From Somalia

SK1401010791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0038 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—Six South Koreans, including Ambassador Kang Sin-song, and 13 North Koreans left Somalia for Kenya on an evacuation flight as fighting between the Somalian Government and rebels worsened Sunday.

The plane, chartered by Italy, flew the diplomats, dependents and other Koreans out of the capital of Mogadishu after reports that one Korean had been killed in the shooting.

Burma

Wa State Rebels Seize Drug Warlord's Stronghold

BK1301013891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] The United Wa State Army [UWSA] early yesterday seized Hill 1591, a stronghold of drug warlord Khun Sa, from the Muang Tai Army [MTA] after shelling the base for seven hours, a military source said.

Most MTA troops abandoned the hill to join their main forces near a Muser village on Doi Laem, he said. There were UWSA and MTA casualties.

The UWSA reportedly has moved more troops to Hill 1591 in preparation for MTA retaliation.

Sporadic fighting was reported first at Doi Pa Hom Pok inside Burma on January 5 and later spread to Doi San Ju, Doi Lak Taeng and Ban Na Ma-eun.

The Third Army Region on Friday ordered the closure of the Thai-Burmese border in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces following fighting between the UWSA and MTA.

It also banned border trading in food and other necessities until the two minority forces comply with a Third Army order and withdraw from the Thai border.

2 Leading Opposition Members Seek Asylum in India

BK1201115291 Delhi External Service in Burmese 1115 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] According to reports received from Mizoram in northeast India, two leading members of the National League for Democracy, or NLD, have entered Mizoram from Burma and have applied for political asylum in India. The two NLD members, who were elected [as parliamentary representatives] in last May's elections, hinted that 10 more NLD representatives are expected to seek political asylum in India. But the reports have not been confirmed by the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi.

Two Burmese students who hijacked a Thai airliner to Calcutta in India also are seeking political asylum. Many members of the Indian Parliament have requested Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar to grant political asylum to the two Burmese students.

Karens Burn Truck, Stage Robberies, Mine Trains

BK1201143991 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] It has been reported that on 8 January, Karen National Union [KNU] insurgents burned down an oil truck belonging to P.T.K. Thai Timber Company of Thailand, which is extracting timber in the Three Pagoda area in the Karen State. The details on the incident are as follows:

A KNU unit stopped the oil truck at 1400 local time 17 miles from Taungzun village. They destroyed the truck and captured two workers and two villagers traveling in the truck. The truck was attacked after it transported oil to machines being used for construction of Three Pagoda-Thanbyuzayat Road, which is being built for local development and timber extraction. Our troops are pursuing the insurgents.

Insurgents have been disturbing local peace and tranquility by staging highway robberies and mining railway lines. At 2050 on 7 January insurgents mined the Namti-Mogaung railway line between milestone Nos. 692-2 and 692-9. The mine explosion damaged the railway sleepers and slightly dislocated the railway line. Local troops and authorities and responsible officers from the Myanmar Railway Enterprise went to the site and completed the repairs of the damaged railway line by 2300 in the evening.

U Ko Appointed New Ambassador to Malaysia

BK0901171891 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 30 Dec 90 p 16

[Text] The chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has appointed U Ko as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Malaysia.

Medical, Dental Institutes To Reopen 15 Jan

BK1001152391 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Classes at the Institutes of Medicine and the Institute of Dental Medicine under the Department of Health Personnel of the Ministry of Health will reopen on 15 January 1991. Classes to be reopened are for second year M.B.B.S. [Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery] course No. 5/87, third year M.B.B.S. course No. 11/87, and final year M.B.B.S. course No. 11/87- A of the Institute of Dental Medicine and of fourth year B.D.S. [Bachelor of Dental Surgery] course No. 5/87 and fifth year B.D.S. course No. 11/87.

Students of these courses have been informed to report to institutes concerned beginning 24 December 1990 and boarders are to report to hostel wardens concerned not earlier than 13 January 1991. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Precautions Taken Against Possible Gulf Conflict

Airline Changes Routes

BK1101150691 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed—Malaysia Airlines [MAS] flights to Europe will take two new routes and avoid the airspace of the Gulf states from tomorrow.

Its flight operations manager (route information) T. P. Naidu said the 30 direct and non-direct flights weekly to Europe would be over the airspace of India, Pakistan, Iran and Russia.

The non-direct flights will stopover and re-fuel in New Delhi.

Currently MAS aircraft bound for Europe enter the airspace of the Gulf states of Oman, with stopover in Dubayy, and fly over Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey.

"The new routes will mean additional operational costs especially for fuel," he said.

MAS deploys B747-400 for the direct flights and B747-300, B747-200 and DC10 for the European destinations.

The Kuala Lumpur-London journey under the new routes will take between 12 to 14 hours.

"There is no big time difference between the old and the new routes. It depends on wind conditions and direction of the journey," he added.

73 Nationals Back From Amman

BK1101143491 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] A total of 73 Malaysian nationals returned home this afternoon on the Royal Jordanian Airlines flight from Amman, Jordan. Sixty-four of them are students who were studying at a university in Jordan and at the University of Jordan in Amman. They returned home in compliance with the government's advice to evacuate the Gulf area following the latest developments in the Gulf.

UNIIMOG Would Evacuate

BK1401082991 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0803 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 14 (OANA-BERNAMA)—All military officers of the multinational military observers group serving in Iran and Iraq under the United Nations' banner will be safely evacuated from danger zones if war breaks out in the Gulf, Malaysian Army Chief Gen Yaakob Mohd Zain said Monday [14 January].

He said a batch of 15 Malaysian officers serving in the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) at the Iran-Iraq border would only leave on the directive of the UNIIMOG Command in Baghdad.

"I was informed that those on the Iran side of the border will head for its capital while those on Iraq's side will be airlifted to Greece in the event of war," he told reporters here.

He said that according to one of the Malaysian officers who returned recently the UNIIMOG Command had prepared a contigency plan to move out all the multinational military observers group in the event of war.

"There is no cause for alarm because the UN had already prepared itself for the Gulf war, even if it break out after the Jan 15 UN-imposed dateline for the Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait," he added. [passage omitted]

Students Return From Jordan

BK1401125491 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Another 38 Malaysian students have returned home from Jordan. Their return was greeted by officials of Foreign Ministry, Education Ministry, and members of their families today. Most of them are studying at Yarmouk University in Jordan under scholarships awarded by the Malaysian Government.

Foreign Ministry officials disclosed that more than 80 Malaysian students, who are studying in the Gulf countries, have returned home. Many more are expected to return home. The Foreign Ministry is also monitoring Malaysian nationals who are returning home on their own. Most of the returnees expressed their gratitude to the government for their assistance. [passage omitted]

More on Meeting Between Mahathir, Singapore's Goh

View Bilateral Issues

BK1101134591 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Singapore today reiterated its strong support for the Malaysian proposal for an East Asian economic grouping. Singapore would join Malaysia in explaining the proposal to ASEAN nations and other Asia-Pacific countries that are to be included in the grouping.

The strong support was conveyed by visiting Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, who lead his delegation to a meeting with the Malaysian delegation headed by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir. The meeting lasted one hour.

Malaysia welcomed the visit by the Singapore officials and their support for the proposal.

Minister of International Trade and Industry Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz, who attended the session, will be visiting other ASEAN nations to explain the Malaysian proposal. She has just returned from visits to Singapore and Indonesia.

Dr. Mahathir and Datuk Goh also want a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and hope war can be avoided. In connection with this, Dr. Mahathir told Datuk Goh that Malaysia will support an Iranian proposal to hold a summit of the Islamic Conference Organization to discuss the Gulf crisis. He said the proposal was conveyed two days ago by the Malaysian Embassy.

On the second causeway linking Malaysia and Singapore, the two leaders discussed the possibility of setting up a joint venture between a local company and a company from Singapore. The terms and conditions of the joint venture will be discussed later.

Dr. Mahathir also expressed his support for the development of the triangle of growth concept covering Singapore, Johor, and Pulau Batam in Indonesia. Dr. Mahathir also told Dr. Goh about Thailand's desire for a similar development project in southern Thailand within two years.

The meeting between Dr. Mahathir and Datuk Goh Chok Tong was held at the right time, because relations between Malaysia and Singapore are improving and becoming more cordial. This clearly is shown by the signing of the water supply agreement, and the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the sale and supply of gas to the island republic. The two sides are also intensifying efforts to start the second causeway project.

The two leaders have voiced their desire to further improve bilateral relations to maintain a close understanding now and in the future.

Discuss East Asia Trade Bloc

BK1201062091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0420 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 12 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Asian countries on the Pacific rim, which have the potential to collectively provide a dynamic core of growth, should explore ways of strengthening regional cooperation, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Friday.

"Initially at least we should learn to consult each other and speak with one voice when negotiating with the European and American blocs," he said at a state banquet for visiting Singapore Premier Goh Chok Tong.

Goh arrived here Friday on a three-day visit, his first since assuming office last November.

Dr. Mahathir who recently called for the setting up of an East Asian economic grouping said while the world was witnessing an unprecedented unity among the community of nations in the political arena, "unfortunately a reverse trend threatens to develop in the multilateral trading system, with the establishment of trading blocs."

As such, he said the Asian countries should look into ways of enhancing trade among themselves in order to build up their markets and make them attractive to the European and American trading blocs.

Saying that they would not be abandoning multilateralism he said: "In order to save multilateralism we must stand up to trading blocs which have already been formed and are working against free trade."

"The choice is not for us to make. It has already been made for us by others." "If we do not know how to act or are afraid to do so because of labels which have been attached to us, we are surely going to lose."

"We really do not understand why it is proper for some countries to come together and protect themselves while others may not do so," Dr. Mahathir added.

He also expressed the hope that Singapore would keep an open mind on the Malaysian proposal for closer economic cooperation involving the Pacific seaboard of Asia. Noting that both Singapore and Malaysia remained strongly committed to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Malaysian leader said it was crucial that ASEAN member countries find new ways to break down barriers to achieve even closer economic cooperation in the region.

He said while ASEAN's achievements in the political arena had gained for it a considerable reputation as a strong regional organization, the effort to promote economic cooperation among member countries had been equally important. Goh said he supported Dr. Mahathir's idea of closer economic cooperation among countries on the Asian side of the Pacific rim. Describing the idea as having immense potential, he said it was far-sighted and imaginative. "I support it."

"I am in favour of strengthening regional economic cooperation among the Asian countries of the Pacific region, whatever the outcome of the Uruguay Round," he added.

Closer regional cooperation in ASEAN together with the countries of East Asia, he said, would maximise the economic potential of the region and enhance trade and investment flows.

"Since this can be done in accordance with GATT rules, it will boost the multilateral free trade system, supplement ASEAN economic cooperation, and give greater meaning to the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) process without jeopardising our traditionally important trading ties," he added.

Noting that the ASEAN economic ministers had been discussing the idea of closer regional economic cooperation for sometime although they had yet to find the mechanism to bring it about, Encik [Mr.] Goh said the Malaysian leader's proposal "will give this work greater impetus."

Goh Views Ties, Lauds Bloc

BK1301115491 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Singapore and Malaysia have entered a new chapter in bilateral relations with both sides looking ahead to warmer ties and closer cooperation. This was disclosed by the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, at the end of his three-day official visit to Malaysia. The Malaysian prime minister, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, who described Mr. Goh's visit as very successful, expressed the same view.

Speaking to journalists before leaving for home this afternoon, Mr. Goh said he believed [words indistinct] relations between Singapore and Malaysia. He told Dr. Mahathir he does not have [words indistinct] of the past and wants to look forward. Mr. Goh also called for more exchanges of visits at all levels between both sides and greater economic cooperation. Dr. Mahathir said both he and Mr. Goh had established good contacts in their meeting and learned more about each other.

Mr. Goh also spoke about Malaysia's proposal of an East Asian economic grouping. He said he prepared the trade and industry minister, Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong, to work with his Malaysian counterpart to explain the concept to officials from other countries. Mr. Goh described the proposal as a bolder one. He said it will benefit countries in the region in the long term. He said Malaysia's proposal will make East Asia speak as one voice and will give added weight in international negotiations.

Sabah Chief Minister Rules Out New State Polls

BK1201140891 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Jan 91 p 20

[By Ismail Kasim]

[Text] Kota Kinabalu—Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan has ruled out the possibility of seeking a fresh mandate to overcome the latest challenge to his leadership brought aobut by the corruption charges levelled against him on Saturday [5 January].

In an exclusive interview with THE STRAITS TIMES at his official residence here yesterday he said that there was no need for a new mandate as his Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) [Sabah United Party] had won its third state election less than a year ago.

"We should not let our personal problems affect our tasks. We must react positively and continue to implement our programmes and bring development to our state," he said.

Datuk Kitingan, who is on bail after being charged with three counts of corruption, said he did not expect the ruling National Front led by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed to take such action against him. He described it as undemocratic and not in keeping with the norms of Malaysian culture.

Other PBS leaders described Datuk Kitingan's arrest and that of his top aide, Dr Maximus Ongkili, as an attempt by the Front government to undermine his leadership and that of his administration.

In an apparent reference to the pullout of the PBS from the ruling Front coalition just before the October general election, they said it was a signal to tell them that they should not be doing what they did.

On his case which has been transferred to the High Court, Datuk Kitingan said that the law would have to take its course. He described it as an occupational hazard for a political leader.

As to the problems existing between the state and federal governments, he said they should be solved through political approaches.

He said that the PBS was still committed towards establishing better ties with Kuala Lumpur and that he welcomes any assistance by those who were concerned.

The Sabah government, he said, would try to improve the communication lines at all levels, including personal approaches, contacts in Parliament and help from friends and allies over there.

Datuk Kitingan said the PBS had always given top priority to improving ties with Dr Mahathir even when it was in the Front coalition.

He said that despite their differences both sides should accept each other in the post-election period as was the case in other democratic countries.

The PBS was returned with a commanding majority of 36 seats in elections to the State Assembly in July on a platform of more state rights.

They included the return of Labuan island, which was given to the federal government by the Berjaya [Sabah People's Union] state administration, resolving the Filipino refugee problem, higher oil royalties than the present 5 percent and the setting up of a university.

He said the leader of the United Sabah National Organisation (Usno), Tun Mustapha Harun, was also a defender of state rights and interests when he was chief minister.

Usno's top leadership has so far not officially reacted to the latest development. It is scheduled to hold a meeting of its central committee tomorrow. On speculation that informal overtures were recently made to Usno to share power at state level, he said that there was no substance in the speculation.

He said that at the moment the majority of the people were still against a coalition government with Usno. Datuk Kitingan said that this did not mean that the two parties could not co-operate for the benefit of Sabah.

As a member of the Front coalition, he said that Usno could play a positive role in helping to get assistance for the state from the federal government.

Cambodia

UN Fact-Finding Mission Urged in Pol Pot Camps

BK1101160191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Station commentary: "The Referee Should Be Neutral and Impartial"]

[Text] The issue of the UN role in a political solution to the Cambodian problem has been the focus of national and international opinions. Warring Cambodian factions also hold different views. The other Cambodian side, namely the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, which has no territory, has demanded that extensive, boundless power be given to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), to the point that it grossly violates the UN Charter.

The State of Cambodia party requires that UNTAC power be clearly determined according to what the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] has granted by rigorously respecting the UN Charter and the Cambodian people's independence, sovereignty, and right to self-determination. For this reason, the other Cambodian side and a number of countries behind it have grossly slandered the State of Cambodia, accusing it of rejecting the UN draft peace plan.

Ordinarily, the referee should be neutral and impartial; He cannot blow the whistle and help the other side kick the ball. It is because of this that the State of Cambodia's government refused to accept a UN role in solving the Cambodian problem between 1979 and 1989, as this supreme international body sided with one party and opposed the other. Furthermore, the Cambodian people have considered all UN resolutions from 1979 to 1989 relating to the Cambodian problem as null and void.

But following the signing of the framework document of the five major powers in August 1990, and with the Cambodian seat left vacant at the 45th UN session, the State of Cambodia has agreed to let the United Nations play a role in supervising the implementation of agreements and organizing elections in Cambodia. This acceptance of the UN role in a political solution to the Cambodian problem does not stem from the influence or pressure of any country on the State of Cambodia, as has been made out in exaggerated propaganda. This was the result of the goodwill of the State of Cambodia, which wants to solve the conflict in Cambodia quickly through free, equitable, and just elections. Furthermore, the acceptance of the UN role in a political solution to the Cambodian problem does not mean that the State of Cambodia's government has been weakened militarily.

In the last 12 years, we have defended the State of Cambodia's identity and prevented the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. In the future, no force can weaken the State of Cambodia. We never have wanted to use war to end war; we want to end the war through negotiations. The acceptance of the UN role is to create a neutral atmosphere and mutual trust among warring Cambodian parties.

Therefore, to achieve this sacred goal, the referee should not do anything that favors one party over the other. We clearly understand other people's concern about neutrality of the environment during the elections. But they also should consider the Cambodian people's concern about the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

It is in this sense that the State of Cambodia refuses to dissolve and disarm its army before the elections, because this measure can be carried out only with the Cambodian [State of Cambodia] party. As for the Pol Pot clique in the Dangrek and Kravanh mountain ranges and its hidden weapons in the jungles, this measure cannot be implemented. The Cambodian people do not trust the Pol Pot clique and its allies.

The State of Cambodia has frequently stated that we accept the gathering of troops into small units with no less than 100 men with their weapons left in their positions. If necessary, UNTAC can set up buffer zones between each party by strictly prohibiting weapons from being taken out of the garrisons. Solving this military issue is the prerogative of the new government established through elections.

The Cambodian people are joyous and happy and warmly welcome the clarification of Ahmad Rafiuddin, deputy UN Secretary General, who has affirmed that the two existing governments in Cambodia will not be dissolved and that the State of Cambodia's police also will not be dissolved. This strictly respects the Cambodian people's right to self-determination. The State of Cambodia's Government is a legitimate one elected by the Cambodian people in 1981, which no individual or organization, apart from the Cambodian people, can dissolve. Furthermore, the United Nations already had dispatched four fact-finding missions to Cambodia.

Therefore, to be just and equitable, the United Nations should dispatch this type of mission to camps under the control of the genocidal Pol Pot group to learn about the unchanged dictatorial administration of Pol Pot and its current policies. Pol Pot remains the same as in the past and is even more vengeful, cruel and savage. Even the Association of Khmer Serei in France, let alone the people inside the country—who have been defending the motherland and preventing the genocidal regime from returning for the second time—have expressed concern that Pol Pot might seize power following UNTAC's withdrawal from Cambodia. Thus, UNTAC, the referee, should be neutral, impartial, and loyal to the Cambodian people's interests.

Heng Samrin Cites Captured Document in Siem Reap

BK1101123791 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1120 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 11— "The enemy wants to use both military force and the negotiating table to overthrow the government of the State of Cambodia", said Heng Samrin, secretary general of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council, at a meeting with 300 outstanding officers in the provincial town of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, more than 300 km northwest of Phnom Penh, during his visit there from Jan. 7-8.

An enemy document captured by the provincial authorities in 1990, he said, revealed their intention to destroy the revolutionary authorities from the grassroot to the central level and to repeat its genocidal practices in the country.

With regard to the settlement of the Cambodian problem, President Heng Samrin said the framework document of the UN Security Council is in favour of the Khmer opposition side, violates the sovereignty of Cambodia, and opposes the Cambodian revolution. He said the State of Cambodia accepts most of the document points but we demanded a clear elaboration of some points.

President Heng Samrin recommended the officers and men to uphold their vigilance against the enemy's perfidious plots and moves, and do all they can to safeguard the people's peaceful life and prevent the return to power of the genocidal Pol Pot regime".

Chea Sim Visits Hospitalized Combatants 11 Jan

BK1201095191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] On the morning of 11 January, Comrade Chea Sim, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense National Council, led an intergovernmental delegation to visit sick and wounded cadres and combatants hospitalized at 1/79 Hospital and [words indistinct] hospital. The delegation also gave them donations of packed instant noodles, condensed milk, sugar, canned fish, soy sauce, scarves, towels, soap, and cigarettes, as well as ballpoint pens, pencils, books, and a color television set.

At the meeting with the hospitals' cadres and staff and cadres and combatants receiving treatment, Comrade Chea Sim pointed out that during the last 12 years, our people, who have been living in peace and have united in defending the motherland and the nation's social gains, have successfully prevented all kinds of maneuvers to return the genocidal Pol Pot regime. The comrade reiterated that our party, government, and people abhor war because it only brings destruction to the nation and people, and this is why our party and government have been seeking, with a flexible and realistic stance, a political solution to ending the war.

On behalf of the party and government, Comrade Chea Sim expressed firm belief in the hospitals' cadres and staff, who have tried their best to provide good care and effective treatment for our armed forces. He also thanked the cadres and combatants, the praiseworthy sons of the land of Angkor, for their struggle against all types of difficulties and obstacles and for their physical and moral sacrifices made in great honor for the cause of the motherland, and coming generations, as well as for their own families.

Soviet Trade Federation Head Greets Counterpart

BK1401091291 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Comrade Men Sam-an, chairwoman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions [CFTU], received a message of greetings from Comrade V.P. Shcherbakov, chairman of the Soviet General Federation of Trade Unions, on the 12th anniversary of the 7 January national day.

The gist of the message says: The Soviet General Federation of Trade Unions wishes to warmly greet the CFTU on the 12th anniversary of the Cambodian people's national day.

After the victory day on 7 January 1979, the Cambodian laborers have participated actively and remarkably in promoting the nation's social gains, specifically in restoring and developing the economic structure and undertaking radical changes toward a national reconciliation. We have noted with pleasure that the cooperation between the Soviet and Cambodian trade unions has developed significantly , and we firmly believe it will be enhanced further for the sake of our two peoples' interests.

May the CFTU and Cambodian laborers score new, even greater successes in implementing the task of promoting the economy, restoring a lasting peace, and achieving a common political settlement in Cambodia.

Hor Namhong Receives Columbia University Group

BK1401060491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0414 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 14—Foreign Minister Hor Namhong received in Phnom Penh Tursday a delegation of the East-Asia Institute of the "Columbia" University of International Affairs led by Professor James William Morley.

Hor Namhong warmly welcomed the delegation's visit and inform the guests of the situation in the country and the process of a political solution to the Cambodian issue, especially the results of the recent Paris meeting.

He answered a number of questions on the international and internal aspects of a solution to the Cambodian conflict, the role of the Supreme National Council (SNC), that of the United Nations Transitional Authorities in Cambodia (UNTAC) in the organization and supervision of the general elections in Cambodia, and the Khmer Rouge's attempt to re-take power either by military means or by using Prince Sihanouk as a card in the event of a political solution. The Cambodian diplomat also spoke of the future situation in the country.

For his part, Prof. James William Morley and his colleague thanked Hor Namhong for helping them to better understand the Cambodian issue, and said they would in turn enlighten the American public on the problem.

While here from Jan. 7-11, the delegation visited the Toul Sleng Museum of Polpotist Genocide, the former Royal Palace, the National Museum, and a number of cultural and ecomomic centres in Phnom Penh.

PRACHEACHON Notes Anniversary Spirit

BK0701053091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0420 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 7—"January 7, 1979 is our second birthday. Every Cambodian, while welcoming the new year day of 1991, takes great pride in celebrating this grand anniversary—the national day of the State of Cambodia," said the semi-weekly "PRACHEACHON" marking the 12th anniversary of the January 7th victory of the Cambodian people.

"PRACHEACHON," organ of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, went on: "From this date, miles could be seen again on the faces of the Cambodians who enjoy the rights to life and freedom of religion and the support and assistance of friendly countries across the world, including Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union, India.

"Exactly 12 years ago, the State of Cambodia was born and made a steady advance, surmounting all difficulties and hardships. For their right to life, peace, national independence and sovereignty, the Cambodian people rose up and successfully overthrew the genocidal Pol Pot clique. Since then, they have eagerly engaged in national reconstruction, while preventing the acts of sabotage by the coalition government of "Democratic Kampuchea" with Prince Norodom Sihanouk at the head.

"The Cambodian people always want peace, yet they have no choice but to fight the war waged by the coalition factions and to prevent the threat of the genocidal Pol Pot regime's comeback.

"The opposition groups have always resorted to every plot and trick to undermine the current peace process to the detriment of the national independence and sovereignty of the State of Cambodia.

"With their own experiences about the nightmare before January 7th, 1991, the Cambodian people will keep going ahead on the path they have chosen by upholding the spirit of the January 7 victory with the aim of defending their national independence and sovereignty.

"We have survived with the spirit of January 7th, the spirit that has prompted us to revive this nation and regain for ourselves the rights to live in peace and freedom," the paper concluded.

Defectors Report on Embattled Battambang Town

BK1301032691 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 12 Jan 91

["Report from Battambang town: Confusion is spreading through Battambang town"]

[Text] Two compatriot officials—forced by the race-exterminating aggressor Vietnamese enemies and their lackey puppet leaders, Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim, to serve their war of aggression and die in their places—escaped from Battambang town, rallied together and came to our national resistance forces on 5 January.

On the situation in the town, the two officials told our national resistance forces that since the appeal launched by the Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea calling on our people to move out, the situation in Battambang town has become extremely agitated. The race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors and the Vietnamese lackey puppet leaders have reinforced their police guardposts at every street corner in the town to prevent our people from leaving. But they have not been able to block our people's movement. The people have, one after another, tried by all means to free themselves from Battambang town.

The officials further said that every day, particularly in the morning, a great number of leaflets had been found in the streets and markets and at Vietnamese enemy offices. The significant point mentioned in the leaflets is the following:

The race-exterminating Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and Vietnamese lackey puppet leaders Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim must respect and implement the five-chapter peace plan formulated by the five UN Security Council permanent members, which requires that:

1. The race-exterminating Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors withdraw all of their invading forces from Cambodia under strict UN verification.

2. The Supreme National Council be headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

The leaflets also call on town residents to join forces to conduct all kinds of activities against the Vietnamese enemies and to move out of Battambang town as quickly as possible.

The situation has increased the great concern of the Cambodian soldiers and officials in the town, who have been forced by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and the traitorous lackey puppet leaders to serve their war of invasion and die in their places. A rumor has circulated that Battambang town is likely to fall very soon just as Pailin. The Cambodian officials and soldiers have disclosed that if the situation becomes fragile, they will flee immediately. They will not remain and die there with the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and lackey puppet leaders.

Siem Reap Situation 'Chaotic'

BK1401024891 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpt] On 5 January, two fraternal officials who had been forced by the Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators and their puppet-lackeys, traitors Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim, to serve their war of aggression and die in their place in Siem Reap town, fled to join our Cambodian national resistance forces.

These two officials told our Cambodian national resistance forces that since the time the Voice of Democratic Kampuchea radio appealed to our people to move out, the situation in Siem Reap town has become extremely chaotic. The Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators and the ringleaders of the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppet clique in Siem Reap town have set up many more police guardposts at every street corner to prevent our people from leaving Siem Reap town. But they have not been able to block our people's movement. The people have sought every way and means to leave Siem Reap town.

The officials have also said that everyday, particularly early in the morning, many leaflets have been found in streets and markets, and at the offices of the Vietnamese enemies. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk: Phnom Penh 'Blocks' Return of Peace

BK1201093191 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Jan 90

["Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian President and Leader of the Cambodian National Resistance, Denounces Puppet Heng Samrin's Statement Rejecting the Peace Plan of the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council"]

[Text] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian president and leader of the Cambodian National Resistance, on 8 January released an article entitled: "In the Name of His Clan, Heng Samrin Destroys Cambodia's Peace Opportunity in 1991."

The article denounces Heng Samrin's statement, in which he rejected the clauses of the peace plan drawn up by the five UN Security Council [UNSC] permanent members concerning the UN transitional authority [UNTAC] and the disarming of his army. He claimed the provisions violated Cambodia's independence and sovereignty. The samdech made the following remarks:

1. The Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh regime has been imposed on Cambodia and its people for 12 years, and the United Nations has not recognized the regime. Because the current Phnom Penh regime and the National Government of Cambodia are not present at the United Nations, it is logical that the UNTAC should administer Cambodia until general elections are held.

2. The Phnom Penh regime of Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen is Vietnam's creation. This is very conspicuous and indisputable. So why should the United Nations be accused of affecting Cambodia's independence and sovereignty while these things do not even exist?

3. For the sake of Cambodia's genuine peace, all the Cambodian parties' armed forces should be disarmed by the United Nations, Vietnamese aggressor troops and colonialists should withdraw from Cambodia, and a UN peacekeeping force should be stationed in Cambodia until a united Cambodian army is established after elections.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk pointed out that Phnom Penh's rejection of the most significantly important part of the peace plan created by the five UNSC permanent members blocks peace from returning to Cambodia.

37 SRV Soldiers Killed at Sdau 8-9 Jan

BK1201071091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] During 8-9 January, our national resistance forces launched a commando attack to destroy the following four positions defending Division 4 Command of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and traitorous puppets Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim at Sdau Seat on Route 10-Battambang battlefield: Phnum Reang, Phnum Phkai Proek, and another two positions at the foot of Banan Hill. We killed 37, wounded 24 enemy soldiers, and destroyed a large amount of war materiel.

At the same time, our national resistance forces fired artillery shells on the Vietnamese enemies' and lackey puppets' 4th Division position, causing them to quake with great fear. Our forces currently are continuing with their attacks on the Vietnamese enemies and their lackey puppets there.

VODK Views 'Gloomy' Celebration in Phnom Penh

BK0901060991 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Station commentary: "The Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors in Phnom Penh and Puppets and Traitors to the Nation Stage a Theatrical Farce To Mark the Anniversary of the Vietnamese Enemy Aggressor Regime in Phnom Penh in a Gloomy and Distressing Atmosphere"]

[Text] On 6 January 1991, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors in Phnom Penh staged a theatrical farce to mark the establishment of the puppet regime in Phnom Penh in a gloomy and distressing atmosphere because:

1. The people in Phnom Penh did not care about this farce to mark the Vietnamese enemy aggressor regime's establishment in Cambodia, the so-called Hun Sen-Heng Samrin regime. This is because the people of Phnom Penh, like Cambodian people throughout the country, do not need and do not recognize the Vietnamese enemy aggressor regime in Phnom Penh. The people of Phnom Penh already set up the Phnom Penh municipal national council in December 1990 to push for a political and comprehensive solution to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia in accordance with the 26 November 1990 detailed document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] so that Cambodia has peace, independence, national unity, and the right to determine for themselves their destiny within its territorial integrity.

2. The war of aggression of the Hanoi Vietnamese in Cambodia, in its 12th year, has been thrown into a trap and is being defeated in every field—on the battlefield of aggression in Cambodia, in Vietnam, and in the international arena.

On the Cambodian battlefield, the Cambodian national resistance forces and the Cambodian people throughout the country are uniting as great national union forces and increasingly and vigorously fighting the Vietnamese enemy and Vietnam's puppets, traitors to the nation, and Vietnam's lackeys, particularly dismantling the state authorities of the Vietnamese enemy aggressor and successively setting up national councils in villages, communes, districts, provinces, and cities in increasing numbers to push for an early political solution to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia in accordance with the framework document of the UNSC five permanent members. Cambodians abroad have also been cooperating and carrying out activities in every form to push for an early solution to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia in accordance with this 28 August document.

The Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and a handful of puppets and traitors to the nation they have propped up in Phnom Penh certainly cannot oppose the Cambodian people's great national union forces. In Vietnam, the Vietnamese economy has been in chronic decline for many years. The Vietnamese people, civil servants, and the Army face an increasingly hard life which the Hanoi Vietnamese clique has failed to solve for many years. In some areas, people starve to death. In 1991, Vietnam lost aid from the Soviet Union and East European countries, which form the only solid bastion in the 12-year war of aggression in Cambodia.

In such a situation, what does the Hanoi Vietnamese leadership possess to solve problems in Vietnam and continue the war of aggression in Cambodia? They no longer have any room to maneuver; the end awaits them. In the international arena, the international community, particularly the PICC cochairmen and the UNSC five permanent members, have been pressuring Vietnam and puppets and traitors to the nation to solve Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia in accordance with the framework document of the UNSC five permanent members dated 28 August 1990. The Vietnamese enemy and puppets and traitors to the nation certainly cannot avoid this.

The process to solve the Cambodian problem has been steadily advancing. On 26 November 1990, the UNSC five permanent members and the PICC cochairmen adopted a detailed draft agreement dated 23 December 1990. Following a meeting of the four Cambodian parties and the PICC cochairmen, a communique was issued reaffirming support for the five-chapter framework document and a number of major points of the 26 November 1990 draft agreement. In the near future, a meeting of the coordinating committee of the PICC will also be held to push for the convening of the PICC to adopt the agreement on solving the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively.

Thus, in the 12th anniversary of Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors are fully in a position of defeat in every field; they cannot use anything to solve anything. This is why the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and the puppets and traitors to the nation in Phnom Penh staged a farce to mark the anniversary of the puppet regime's establishment in a gloomy and most distressing atmosphere.

Indonesia

Baghdad Embassy Temporarily Closed 12 Jan

BK1401060091 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0539 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 14 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia has decided to empty its embassy in Baghdad following the closure of other countries' embassies in the Iraqi capital, Irawan Abidin said in his capacity as charge d'affaires of the Indonesian Embassy in Saudi Arabia in a cable to ANTARA on Sunday night.

The temporary closure of the Indonesian Embassy in Baghdad was made after Indonesian ambassador to Iraq and his staff along with their dependants left Iraq via Amman on January 12, from where they returned home.

On the fate of Indonesian Embassy staff in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh, Irawan said most of them, namely their children and wives, returned home in November and December last year, while others were evacuated to safer areas in Amman, Jordan.

The number of Indonesian nationals still staying in Riyadh was 397, accounting for 50 per cent of the early total figures, he said.

Ministry Says Embassy Open

BK1401085291 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0827 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 14 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Indonesian Embassy in Baghdad is still open and is guarded by three Indonesian students who refused to leave Iraq and four Iraqi administrative staff, the Foreign Ministry here said Monday [14 January].

The ministry affirmed that the three sudents were assigned by Indonesian Ambassador to Iraq Joko Marseno to guard the embassy and the Wisma Indonesia building in the Iraqi capital. They were supplied with anti-gas masks, stocks of daily provisions and money, it said. Of the four Iraqis, two are administrative staffers and two others non-administrative ones, it said.

The ministry said Ambassador Joko Marsono left the Iraqi capital on January 7 for Amman and stayed in the Jordanian capital until January 12 for contacts with the ministry in Jakarta. Marseno was the last one of ASEAN ambassadors to Iraq leaving the Arabian country which is facing the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf due to its occupation of Kuwait on August 2 last year. Other ASEAN countries having embassies in Baghdad are Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Directive Issued to Indonesians in Saudi Arabia

BK1301045991 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0430 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 12 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesian workers in Saudi Arabia have been told what to do in case the current crisis in the Gulf breaks into an open war. They have been given a directive to gather at four points—Riyadh, Jeddah, Mecca, and Medina—as part of a plan to bring them to safety, Tantyo Sudharmono, chairman of the Association of Indonesian Workers Supplier Companies (IMSA), told journalists here on Saturday [12 January].

He had just arrived from Saudi Arabia as leader of a team of nine officials dispatched by the Ministry of Manpower to give guidance to the Indonesian workers in connection with the current Gulf crisis.

In Saudi Arabia, the team travelled to a number of cities where Indonesian workers were, from the south to the north to the west, Tantyo said.

Military preparations for war were indeed stepped up but life, including the lives of the Indonesian workers, appeared to be normal, he told the journalists. The Indonesian Embassy in Riyadh already had contingency plans for the safety of Indonesians in the Arabian country, including the workers, in case of war, he said.

The Saudi Government had also assured the Indonesian workers of their safety, he added. For that reason, Indonesia does not plan to evacuate the workers. A number of other countries also do not plan to evacuate their workers from Saudi Arabia, he said.

But those workers who had ended their terms of contracts were in the embassy preparing to return home to Indonesia. None, however, were planning to return to Indonesia because of fear of war.

About 98,000 Indonesian workers are employed in various parts of Saudi Arabia, including 10,000 near the border with Kuwait. There were no more Indonesian workers in Kuwait as they had all left that country since the beginning of the Gulf crisis.

Since, beginning from January 13, the Indonesian flag carrier, Garuda Indonesia, will temporarily halt its flights to the Middle East, Indonesians wishing to return home from Saudi Arabia would have to fly on airlines of other countries, the IMSA chairman said.

Students Call on Saudi, Iraqi, U.S. Embassies

BK1401101491 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0929 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 14 (OANA-ANTARA)—A group of seven Islamic students from Yogyakarta here Monday [14 January] conveyed a resolution to the Saudi Arabian, the United States, and Iraqi Embassies calling for the prevention of war in the Gulf.

Led by Nugroho Prasetyo, a student of the Indonesian Islamic University (UII), the delegation was received by Saudi Ambassador Talaat Amin Hamdi, who said that he was prepared to speak before the Indonesian Muslims about the Gulf crisis, while reaffirming his country's concern over the Iraqi anexation of Kuwait.

At the Iraqi Embassy here they failed to meet the Iraqi ambassador. They were received by a senior diplomat, Mohamed Ali H. al-Faham at the embassy's gate.

From the Iraqi Embassy, they moved to the United States Embassy here.

In the three embassies the delegation conveyed a five-point resolution calling for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis through a negotiation under the auspices of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

They also called for an immediate withdrawal of multinational forces from the Gulf region and the Israeli troops from Palestinian territory.

The students also called for the United Nations to withdraw its economic embargo against Iraq.

Garuda Suspends 4 European Routes Due to Crisis

BK1301074291 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Garuda Indonesia has temporarily suspended four air routes to Europe via Abu Dhabi until 16 January 1991 due to the uncertain situation in the Middle East.

Sunaryo, Garuda Indonesia director for commercial affairs, said in Bandung yesterday that the four air routes were Jakarta-Brussels-London, Jakarta-Paris-Amsterdam, Jakarta-Vienna-London, and Jakarta-Zurich-Paris. He said that the suspension of these air routes would cost Garuda a loss of some 1.7 billion rupiah per week.

Suharto on Importance of Rice Self-Sufficiency

BK1401111091 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0807 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 14 (OANA-ANTARA)—President Suharto has called on Indonesians to lessen consumption of rice, saying that if rice use is still as high as now, the bid to maintain the nation's self-sufficiency in the commodity would get into difficulty. This will be so especially after rice productivity has reached a saturation point in the future, the president said.

President Suharto made the call when he presented prizes to winners of the 1989-90 national farming intensification contest at the State Palace Monday [14 January]. The prize presentation ceremony was also attended by First Lady Tien Suharto, Coordinating Minister for Economy, Finance, and Industry Radius Prawiro, and Cooperatives Minister Bustanil Arifin.

Up to now Indonesia has still been able to continue increasing rice production. But we know that one day there will be a saturation point. If rice consumption continues to rise as now, it will not be impossible that we will fail to maintain our rice self-sufficiency, the president told the prize-winning farmers who came from many regions.

To prevent such a failure, rice consumption should be decreased by among others diversifying the national menu of staple food to include sago, maize, sweet potato, and other foodstuffs. Indonesians also need to increase their consumption of protein which implies the need for increasing the production of fish and livestock, the president said.

Of agricultural production in general, the head of state said the performance of Indonesian farmers had been encouraging. However, he reminded them that the challenge to be tackled was also still big. For example, self-sufficiency in rice still has to be maintained with hard work due to rise in rice consumption due to increase in population. Besides, despite great effort to boost soybean production, Indonesia still has to import from 600,000 to 800,000 tons of the commodity. Meanwhile, the government is trying to encourage sugar production in areas outside Java as a new goal that poses another challenge.

Enhanced Industrial Development Forecast

BK1301063991 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0416 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Bandung (West Java), Jan. 13 (OANA-ANTARA)—Industry Minister Hartarto said here on Saturday national industrial development would continue to be enhanced extensively and intensively so that it could grow and expand by itself to meet the coming 25-year second long-term development program.

Focus will be put on the development of export-oriented industries, industrial structures to promote downstream industries, processing industries for agricultural products, and labour-intensive industries, he told Golkar [Functional Group] Party cadres. He said industrial development would be pushed towards creating industries which have strong competitive power, namely the ones which can take the benefit of comparative advantages.

The industries which can stand within the next 25 years are those which can take the benefit of the comparative advantage of natural and human resources and the combination of both, he said. In connection with that, he emphasized the importance of the application of appropriate technology and applied research and development services.

Minister Hartarto said non-oil exports had boosted Indonesia's economy which kept growing within the last eight years and reached 7.4 percent in 1989. He said exports of industrial products have played a very strategic role as they made up 80 per cent of the non-oil exports. Exports of industrial products consist of products from large, middle- and small-size industries, he added.

In 1989 exports of industrial products reached 50 per cent of the national exports, above oil exports. Industrial sector grew around 12.9 percent and its contribution to the gross domestic product reached 18.9 per cent. This performance should bring gratefulness, the minister said.

Minister Hartarto said the results of industrial development have given a positive impact on the national sociopolitical, economic, cultural, defense, and security life.

The success in industrial development has also been able to make the economic structure more balanced, promote public confidence, the acquisition of science and technology and useful cultural values such as rationality, efficiency, productivity, working spirit, self-sufficiency, and others.

The positive impact of the development results are parallel with the aim of industrialization namely to create an industrial society in the framework of materializing the national outlook and strengthening national defense, he said.

Philippines

Iraq Says U.S. Facilities Will Not Be Attacked

HK1201012091 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Iraqi Consul Mufat al-'Ani promised that his country will not attack the U.S. facilities in the Philippines, even if war breaks out in the Gulf. According to Mufat, Iraq has no ill intention against the Philippines and wants to maintain its good relations with the country.

Envoy Says First Shot Will Not Come From Iraq

HK1101112591 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Iraqi Consul General Mufat al-'Ani assured that the first shot that would mark the war in the Middle East will not come from Iraq. He made the assurance in a congressional forum. Ana Soriano has the details:

[Begin recording] [Soriano] Al-'Ani reiterated in the meeting that Iraq's position remains defensive. He said that since the beginning Iraq had already clarified its position, i.e. it is ready for dialogue to resolve the problem. He added that Iraq should not be asked about the possibility of a Gulf war, but rather the United States which leads the United Nations multinational forces.

[Al-'Ani in English] I think this [word indistinct] should be addressed to the Americans, is it going to be war or not? Simply because we in Iraq are so convinced from the beginning—and we initiated a peaceful settlement on August 12—it is not right that the Americans claim that they are going an extra mile for peace. It's only lately. But Iraq was asking for peace from the beginning. [end recording]

Military Tightens Security Around U.S. Bases

HK1401033991 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 14 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Text] Military and police authorities tightened security yesterday around U.S. military bases in Subic, Zambales and in Angeles City in Pampanga in anticipation of possible terroristic acts by rebels on U.S. facilities.

Although American troops have their own security measures at Clark Air Base in Angeles City and Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will undertake its security operations to ward off possible attacks by rebels, military officials at Camp Aguinaldo said.

Col. Juanito Rimando, AFP spokesman, said the AFP is ready to counter any attack by anti-government forces which will take advantage of the Gulf crisis. He said the U.S. bases in the country are actually Philippine bases "with some American facilities inside, which the National Democratic Front (NDF) is threatening to attack if a shooting war breaks out in the Middle East."

Rimando, however, brushed off threats by the NDF, saying that it does not have the capability to stage attacks on U.S. bases. He said what the AFP and U.S. troops are doing is just a standard security procedure to make sure that no terroristic acts are committed against U.S. facilities.

"This is just a propaganda tactic by the NDF to strengthen their weak position," the AFP spokesman said, referring to NDF threats. He said the AFP high command had also alerted the AFP-controlled Subic Command and Clark Air Base Command, respectively under Navy chief Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas Jr. and Maj. Gen. Gerardo Protacio, Philippine Air Force chief.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos earlier confirmed that the NDF had sent a mission to Baghdad in Iraq to coordinate with Iraqi force on terroristic missions in the Philippines. Last week, NDF spokesman Luis Jalandoni reiterated the warning of attacks on U.S. bases by the communist movement if war erupts in the Gulf.

The NDF also warned President Aquino against the use of the bases by the U.S. to reinforce troops and increase resources in the Middle East during a war. The group declared that it would conduct terrorism activity if the government allows the transit of U.S. warships from the Philippines to the Middle East.

Ramos ordered the AFP to coordinate with police and implement more security measures around American facilities.

Aquino Orders Surveillance of Communist Rebels

HK1401121191 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino ordered the military today to closely monitor the communist rebels' activities. This in relation to reports stating that they will sow terrorism in the country in support of Iraq. The president ordered the surveillance after Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa confirmed the National Democratic Front's offer of service to Iraq by launching terrorism in the country. However, Ramos assured the armed forces are prepared and are not intimidated by the rebels' threat.

Manglapus, De Villa Assure Safety of Foreigners

HK1401092191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said the government is now implementing necessary measures to protect the safety of foreigners in the Philippines. This follows statements by the communist rebels that they will launch attacks on nationals and the facilities of countries which have joined the multinational coalition in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the government has assured the safety of foreigners from Iraqi terrorists. Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa assured President Aquino that the military is capable of protecting foreign nationals in the country from Iraqi terrorists' threats. De Villa told the president that the Armed Forces is closely monitoring the embassies of other countries to ensure they're not victimized by terrorists from Iraq and its allies. In an interview with Malacanang reporters, De Villa said:

[Begin recording in English] [De Villa] We have prepared special protection for those who may be threatened with terrorism.

[Reporter] In what way, sir. Watching the embassies?

[De Villa] Well, first, from the intelligence side, because we are monitoring it, and secondarily with security things if they are needed. As long as they are needed.

[Reporter] Has anyone asked for this?

[De Villa] So far, none yet that I know. But we have conferred with some of our counterparts in the embassies and we have offered our assistance. [end recording]

De Villa stressed that the military is ready to foil any attempt by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement or National Democratic Front to sow terror in the event war erupts in the Gulf. De Villa asserted that the Armed Forces is also ready for any plan by the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front. Earlier, the possibility of pro-Iraqi terrorists launching attacks in countries supportive of the U.N. Security Council resolution against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, was predicted. Iraq has until 15 January to leave Kuwait.

General De Villa on Possible Terrorist Attacks

HK1101142991 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa expressed the government's concern regarding possible terrorist attacks in the Philippines if war breaks out in the Gulf. According to him, terrorism can be carried out by proxy by anti-U.S. groups like the communist rebels. Although De Villa does not believe that Subic and Clark Air Base will be attacked directly, he thinks that individual terrorist actions could take place. He also said that it is not yet time to monitor the activities of Iraqi nationals. There are over 500 Iraqi students, diplomats, tourists in the Philippines.

De Villa Puts Military on Alert

HK1401113391 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 14 Jan 91

[By Restie de Quiros—italicized passages in English]

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa placed all military units on blue alert today in anticipation of the possible breakout of war in the Middle East at anytime. The blue alert status took effect at 0800 [0000 GMT] this morning. Under the military's preferred alert system, all commanders are permitted to retain half of their forces inside camps, ready to respond at all times. The red alert means that the troops are ready and will be prepared when war breaks out. De Villa also summoned all high-ranking military commanders to a conference at Camp Aguinaldo to review the security contingency plans. AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Spokesman Colonel Juanito Rimando said the alert was declared to prevent all threats to peace and order in the country, as wel' as security, in view of the crisis in the Gulf region. He downplayed the threats from groups wanting to spread terrorism in the country. Earlier, the communist National Democratic Front offered its services to terrorist squads in response to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's call for global terrorism. The defense and AFP leadership however, declared they are ready for any attack by rebel groups. Some military officials said they are currently monitoring rebel Muslims in Mindanao and other parts of the country which are considered by Iraq as its so-called *selected targets* in the country. Here is the statement by Colonel Juanito Rimando, the AFP spokesman:

[Begin recording] There are only precautionary measures for the present crisis in the Gulf. We like to prepare the Armed Forces to be ready and be able to provide security should anything happen. But the people should know that this is a normal procedure. And they should not worry nor be afraid that the Armed Forces of the Philippines are on alert. *We have been on this, time and again—alert. And this only menas that we are just waiting,* increasing our presence inside the camps. So that when we are needed for various purposes, your Armed Forces are there. [end recording]

Security at International Airport Intensified

HK1101142591 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Authorities have intensified security at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport [NAIA]. The airline operators council received news about Iraq's threat of international terrorism. The Philippine Government has assured airline companies that patrols and security in and out of the NAIA will be beefed up. Philippine Marine operatives together with the Air Force soldiers will screen all the passengers arriving and leaving under the carriers Gulf Air, Egypt Air, and Pakistan Airways. Immigration officials and employees are assigned to departure and arrival areas to look out for persons wanted by police organizations. Planes flying to the United States, like Northwest and United Airlines, will be given double security.

Military Downplays Communist Threats in War

HK1401035591 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 14 Jan 91 p 1

[By staff member Manny Mogato]

[Text] Senior military officials yesterday downplayed threats by communist guerrillas to attack government offices and American military facilities in support of Iraq which faces an imminent attack by U.S.-led forces.

Still, the military said it was enforcing precautionary measures and intensifying intelligence operations, particularly against a new urban communist group called the "Edgar Jopson Brigade". [Edjop]

According to military sources, the Edjop brigade was organized by the New People's Army [NPA] to raise party funds, harass and intimidate anti-revolutionary forces and launch psychological warfare through terrorist activities.

The rebel group was allegedly responsible for the killing of two U.S. servicemen outside Clark Air Base last year and the sabotage of the U.S. communications facility in Mount Sto. Tomas in Benguet in 1989.

Armed forces spokesman Col. Juanito Rimando said the threat issued by the National Democratic Front [NDF] "is just a propaganda tactic to strengthen their weakening position." He said the rebels do not have the resources and capability to launch massive tactical offensive against Clark and Subic bases.

Rimando, however, admitted the guerrillas have the capability, though limited, for assassinations, harassments, bombings and hit-and-run tactics. "The armed forces is prepared against any rebel attacks," Rimando told reporters. "We have already adopted adequate security measures to stop them from carrying out any of their anti-people and insane acts of terrorism."

The communists had warned the government of rebel attacks for allowing the Americans to use the bases here against Iraq. NDF leader Luis Jalendom attacked the government's "doubletalk" and warned of increasing revolutionary attacks in the country once war erupts in the Middle East. Jalandoni's statement confirmed intelligence reports that the communists had sent a representative to Baghdad offering President Saddam of CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA-NDF's services to sabotage U.S. installations.

Manila Reiterates Support for UN Resolution

HK1401135391 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] The Philippine Government still supports the United Nation's resolution for Iraq to leave Kuwait on 15 January. President Aquino, however, was quick to add that this does not mean support for war, saying the country only wishes to resolve the crisis in a peaceful manner:

[Begin Paredes recording in English] There's a fear to support the UN resolution for the Gulf crisis, even if our limited resources allow us only by a legislation by way of a medical mission in the international efforts to resolve the crisis. The United Nations authorized that [words indistinct] is not the same in war. It is potentially intended to maintain our international peace and security under the terms of the UN Charter which provides for a search to all peaceful measures. Search before you think war. And this is what the UN has been doing.

The appeal [word indistinct] to all nations to work for peace strengthens rather than diminishes our support for the UN efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis. At the [words indistinct] yesterday, members of the diplomatic corps expressed the hope that a peaceful resolution of the crisis can still be reached. [end recording]

That was the president's statement read by Press Undersecretary Horacio Paredes.

Saudi Arabia Requests 110,000 Workers Remain

HK1401115491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] The Saudi Arabian Government requested that the Philippines not pull its 390,000 workers out of the Kingdom. According to Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, Saudi Arabia particularly requested the Philippine Government not evacuate the workers because it will affect the Kingdom's economy. Manglapus said about 110,000 Filipinos are working on oil fields and other facilities in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, which can be reached by Iraqi missiles if war breaks out. He said the Saudi Arabian Government assured that all the workers will be evacuated to Abu Dhabi or Jeddah if war erupts.

Aquino Urges Domestic Calm as Gulf War Nears

BK1301095891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0939 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Manila, Jan 13 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino charged Sunday that "enemies of the people" were trying to create an atmosphere of chaos in the Philippines as the world girded for a possible war in the Gulf. The Philippines will have enough food in case of war, she said, adding that Filipinos should refrain from panic buying and that those who did so would create an artificial problem.

"Some aspects of our current problems are caused by the evil doings of the enemies of the people," Mrs. Aquino said in a statement that did not identify such groups. "We have strong evidence that these negative occurrences this past week—panic buying, the false news about an increase in domestic oil prices—are part of a black propaganda campaign to promote nationwide chaos," she added.

A government task force has a plan ready "to safeguard the freedom and well-being of the people against the threats from the forces of the RAM-SFP and CPP-NPA," she said.

The Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) and its allies—among them the "Soldiers of the Filipino People" [SFP] —have launched seven military rebellions against Mrs. Aquino since she took office five years ago. The banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its New People's Army (NPA) have been waging an insurgency for nearly 22 years.

Reiterating plans announced earlier, Mrs. Aquino said "we won't have a food shortage" but "we will probably have some problems in the distribution of agricultural products."

In case of war in the Gulf, the government will cut oil supplies and give priority in fuel sales to activities devoted to food production, mass transport and cargo, she said. It will also maintain current local pump prices in the event of war, which would threaten Middle East oil supplies to the Philippines —which account for 80 per cent of the country's energy needs.

At least 50 per cent of Philippine oil requirements have been assured "should we encounter supply difficulties in the coming months," with 20 per cent through a petroleum security agreement with Southeast Asian neighbors and 10 per cent from China.

Separately, a local official complained Sunday of the noise produced by increased air activity at a major U.S. airbase north of Manila. Stepped-up activity at Clark Airbase, peaking late at night and tapering off at dawn, has caused "nervous breakdowns" and hearing defects in some residents, Mayor Wilfredo Halili of Mabalacat town told reporters in nearby Angeles City. He also expressed fear that some low-flying aircraft could crash into population centers in Angeles City and Mabalacat, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Manila.

No comment was immediately available from authorities at Clark, the home base of the 13th U.S. Air Force. But Filipino civilian workers at Clark confirmed an increased traffic of large military aircraft, saying they saw some being loaded with combat rations and other provisions.

U.S. bases in the Philippines lie about halfway between the West Coast of the United States and the Persian Gulf, where a U.S.-led multinational force is poised for military action if Iraq fails to withdraw from Kuwait by midnight January 15. A large amphibious task force from California stopped for a week at Subic Naval Base, west of Clark, before proceeding to the Gulf January 2.

Labor Groups Adopt Strike Moratorium

HK1401035191 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 14 Jan 91 pp 1, 19

[By E.T. Suarez]

[Text] Various labor groups agreed yesterday to adopt a strike moratorium and vowed to help the government cope with economic and other problems spawned by the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

This developed as Raul Concepcion, chairman of the Joint Government-Business Task Force on Power, said there is no reason for the public to panic as the government's contingency plan, containing suggestions from various multi-sectoral task forces, is already in place.

Concepcion said the fact that the market withstood heavy buying pressures for food and gasoline last week and that the banks serviced heavy withdrawals by depositors showed that the government is in full control of the situation. The labor groups, led by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), said the adoption of a strike moratorium or "freeze" is a gesture of cooperation in the wake of the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

"The democratic labor groups have shown enough maturity and sense of responsibility in sharing the burdens of previous national crisis," said Democrito Mendoza, TUCP president. "We are again willing, in the spirit of national unity and sacrifice, to do its share in this crisis." But Mendoza said a strike moratorium does not mean the workers will allow their rights to be trampled upon. "The workers will remain vigilant and assertive of their rights if warranted by the situation," he said.

Mendoza said the workers will take such measures as may be necessary to make the government's emergency plans more effective. He cited the government's decision not to suspend the labor laws as part of the government's contingency measures to deal with the expected political and economic crisis because of the Gulf crisis, saying "it's a recognition of the maturity and wisdom of the labor sector."

Mendoza said the TUCP will participate in today's Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TIPC) called by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to soften the impact of the gulf crisis on the workers, especially if it worsens into a war. He expressed the hope that the meeting will formulate measures to minimize retrenchments resulting from the energy crisis and severe shortage of foreign exchange to finance the importation of raw materials for the manufacturing sectors of the economy.

Concepcion said the retrenchment of workers will be resorted to only if extremely necessary. He added that priority areas such as food, experts and agriculture are assured of foreign exchange, while fuel for production and transportation has been guaranteed. He said there is no need to panic even if war breaks out in the Middle East.

The perception, Concepcion said, is that a 90-day war in the Middle East will result in only a 20 percent cut back in fuel supply, instead of 50 percent as earlier predicted because the country already has a 72-day supply plus 50 percent of normal iol requirements to be secured from Middle East suppliers. "This means actual oil supplies can be stretched to 100 days," Concepcion said.

He said the people have already coped with the worst scenario in the previous week as they went panic-buying on gasoline and food. "Except for sporadic shortages for sugar and milk, which were subsequently replenished, the panic proved there are enough food and fuel supplies and that the banking system is very stable," he said.

Senator Bids To Block Attacks From U.S. Bases

HK1101141991 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Senator Wigberto Tanada filed a resolution seeking to ban Washington's use of its bases in the Philippines to launch combat operations against Iraq. Angie Delfino has the details:

[Begin recording] Senator Tanada continues to insist that the Aquino government should not allow the United States to use its military forces in the Philippines to launch combat operations against Iraq. In the resolution he filed, he reiterated that this move would prove that the Aquino administration supports freedom in international law. This will also be the chance for the Filipino people to unite in maintaining peace, order, and stability as a consequence of the Middle East crisis.

Tanada said the Republic of the Philippines-U.S. Military Bases Agreement does not mention the use of the U.S. bases for military combat operations without previous consultation with the Philippine Government. He added that the United States cannot use the Mutual Defense Treaty as a reason to attack Iraq, because this can only be applied to armed U.S. attacks in the Pacific region. With reference to international law, he further stated that if the Philippines allows the U.S. to use its bases to attack Iraq, this would mean that the Philippines also declares war against Iraq. Tanada thinks the government should not allow this to happen for the sake of the national interest. [end recording]

Salonga Sets Condition for U.S. Bases Accord

HK1401020891 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] The Senate will not ratify a new bases accord [as heard]. Senate President Jovito Salonga made this statement to Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus. According to Salonga, the Senate will only ratify a new treaty if Filipino businessmen are allowed to use the Crow Valley firing range after the U.S. military bases accord terminates in September.

Thailand

Ministry Plans To Keep Baghdad Embassy Open

BK1401081891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0759 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 14 (AFP)—Thailand has no plans to close down its embassy in the Iraqi capital and is to maintain a skeleton staff there, Foreign Ministry officials said here on Monday.

The officials, who requested anonymity, pointed out however that most of the Thai diplomatic staff have been withdrawn from Baghdad.

A "skeleton staff" of three junior diplomats will stay in Baghdad to "look after the embassy," one said, adding that the three "were to remain there beyond January 15."

The United Nations has drawn a deadline for Baghdad forces to pullout from Kuwait by midnight New York time Tuesday or face attack from the multinational force gathered in the Gulf.

About 70 Thai workers have voluntarily chosen to remain in Baghdad and some 10 others are still in occupied Kuwait, the officials said, adding that most of the workers had opted to remain behind because their employment contracts have not expired.

The Thai Government in August airlifted about 6,000 Thai workers home following the Iraqi invasion of neighbouring Kuwait on August 2.

Security Situation, Gulf Crisis Highlighted

Security Tightened Near Embassies

BK1301013391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Police yesterday imposed tighter security on some embassies and an airline office in Bangkok because of the crisis in the Gulf, a police source said.

On January 1, the Police Department launched the first stage of the security plan for the embassies and airline offices of countries involved in the crisis.

Yesterday, the police started the second stage of the plan, under which more heavily-armed officers from the Special Branch, Metropolitan Police and Crime Suppression Division are deployed at the embassies and airline office.

Police will work closely with security guards at the facilities, which will be patrolled inside and out, around the clock.

Personnel at the facilities will receive similar protection.

The facilities receiving extra protection include the United States, British, Australian, Japanese, Saudi Arabian, Iraqi, Egyptian and Israeli embassies and the office of Kuwaiti Airlines.

Tomorrow, police will decide whether to go ahead with the third stage of the plan, which would be aimed at preventing sabotage, hijacking and assassinations, the source said.

Peacekeeping Force Makes Preparations

BK1401143291 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] First Army Commander General San Siphen says the Capital Peacekeeping Force has made preparations, due to the Persian Gulf situation, to prevent any possible act of terrorism and sent personnel to protect important government offices and foreign embassies.

[Begin recording] [San] The commander of the Capital Peacekeeping Force and his deputies have given instructions in this regard. We must beef up security measures at government offices.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are there any indications of terrorist movements?

[San] So far there are none. But we are keeping a close watch on the situation.

[Unidentified correspondent] Does the military think war will break out?

[San] I don't know. We'll have to wait until tomorrow. [end recording]

Editorial on Terrorism

BK1401034591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Keeping Terrorism Out of Thailand"]

[Text] Thailand can take only small comfort from the statement last week by the Iraqi ambassador that his nation is not at war with this country. In talks with Foreign Minister Athit Urairat and other Thai officials, Ambassador Munir Shibab Ahmad pledged that Baghdad would not support terrorism against Thailand. But he added that in the event of war in the Gulf, his government "was unlikely to prevent" possible terrorist attacks against Americans. Diplomatically, he refrained from commenting on the possibility of such attacks on Thai soil. The omission was not lost on Thai security agencies which have already started mounting precautionary measures to protect potential targets of attacks such as selected embassies, airline offices and foreign schools.

As the United Nations deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait approaches, these agencies are putting contingency plans into effect. Step 1, already underway, involves special protection for certain foreign embassies and officials, and the office of Kuwait Airlines. Ever-tighter security will be seen if Baghdad's defiance of world opinion continues and the threat of war draws nearer. Thai security and intelligence agencies are only being realistic; extra precaution is obviously called for. In addition to the normal passions that wars raise is the close cooperation between Iraq and the world's most violent terrorist groups.

President Saddam Husayn of Iraq has courted terrorist leaders since last summer. Well-known and shadowy terrorist groups alike have moved from Jordan, Syria and even Iran into a suddenly hospitable Baghdad. This has given Mr Husayn's warning of worldwide terrorism regrettable credibility. Few leaders of the anti-Iraq alliance doubt Baghdad's inclination or ability to launch terrorist attacks in many areas of the world, whether or not war in the Gulf is the catalyst.

Particularly at risk in this area is the Philippines. There, evidence indicates Iraq could draw on Filipino Moros as active agents. In additon, highly concerned Philippines security agencies believe the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] has offered to cooperate in any such actions. The CPP has long backed a terrorism campaign of its own against Americans and the government of President Corazon Aquino. The long-active Muslim uprising in the southern Philippines has provided Gulf-area terrorists a hook into a terrorist "army" which could well be activated.

While Thai people could take some comfort in Ambassador Shibab's assurance that any Baghdad backed terrorist activities would not happen here, the other aspects of his message nonetheless had an alarming ring. He spoke of "a lot of Muslims around the world" who might attack Americans or others in the event of war. But, of course, a lot of the world's Muslims oppose Iraq's actions in Kuwait, and their nations are part of the anti-Iraq military alliance. Mr Shibab's statements could thus be seen as reflecting Iraq's continued attempt to portray events in the Gulf as an anti-Muslim assault by the United States.

Thailand's role in all this is obvious, and the Thai authorities are meeting their responsibilities. Supportive of the United nations resolutions, this country is, quite rightly, on the side of Kuwait. But the Thai government also has the responsibility to protect its own citizens and foreign guests. Such protection extends, and is extending, as much to the Iraqi ambassador as to the American envoy.

Any ramifications from war in the Gulf—if it occurs—must not be allowed to spread to the streets and buildings of Bangkok or others areas of Thailand. The sort of terrorism which Mr Shibab says his government could not control must then be prevented by other means. The Thai security agencies deserve support for taking contingency plans against possible terrorism. If they deem it necessary to provide more intrusive security measures as the spectre of war draws nearer, the public should cooperate.

Deputy Prime Minister Cancels Middle East Visit

BK1201092191 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Speaking to reporters at parliament building this morning, Deputy Prime Minister General Athit Kamlang-ek, in his position as chairman of the ad hoc committee for assistance of Thai workers affected by the Persian Gulf situation, said he will not travel to the Middle East as reported, but will send Thai officials to assist Thai workers. Asked whether aircraft will be sent to pick up Thai workers, Gen. Athit said the 78 Thai workers in Iraq will be moved to northern Iraq which is relatively safe. If war erupts, these workers can be brought home by regular commercial flights. He said the some 2,000 Thai workers in Israel will be moved to safe areas, but if the situation warrants, aircraft can be sent to evacuate them. About 100,000 Thai workers are now in Saudi Arabia, but about 50,000 currently work in areas which could be affected by a war and would be moved to safe areas if war erupts.

Saudi Arabia Grants Visas for Officials

BK1401145491 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Athit Urairat briefed reporters this afternoon on the results of his meeting with Saudi charge d'affaires Muhammad Sa'id Khujah. Athit said that the Saudi charge d'affaires, who just returned from Saudi Arabia, informed him that the Saudi Government was satisfied with the foreign minister's recent visit to Saudi Arabia becuase the visit helped promote relations between the two countries. The Saudi Government also hopes that bilateral relations and cooperation between the two nations will further strengthen in the future.

In addition, the Saudi charge d'affaires informed the foreign minister that the Saudi Government had granted visas for 41 Thai officials to go to that country to help evacuate Thai workers after five Thai officials have already gone to Saudi Arabia. He also affirmed that the Saudi Government will take care the security of the Thai workers and Thai residents in Saudi Arabia. He also said that Saudi Arabia is still a safe place and believed that there will be good news for the world people.

The foreign minister said that although Thailand still had hope that the war would not break out, for precautions, preparations have been made, including asking for cooperation from the Finance Ministry to allow Thai embassies in the Middle East to use an emergency fund of 40 million baht from the income collected from the issuance of passports and visas in helping evacuate the Thai workers. This request was approved already.

Government Agencies Discuss Evacuation Plan

BK1401153491 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said that the Foreign Ministry held a meeting with other government agencies concerned today to adjust the evacuation plan for the Thai workers to make it suitable to the situation. He said that 41 Thai officials—16 public health officials, 20 labor department officials, and 5 Foreign Ministry officials—have been granted visas to go to Saudi Arabia. About six to eight officials will leave for Saudi Arabia tonight. The remaining officials will leave on the evening of 16 January.

He also said that only five Thai people still remain in Iraq and that they will not leave Iraq. Three people work at the palace of President Saddam Husayn, one at the palace of President Saddam's younger brother, and another at a clinic.

Students Present Letter to Saddam at Embassy

BK1401013191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] About 20 student activists presented flowers and a letter addressed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the Iraqi Embassy yesterday, calling on the Iraqi leader to comply with UN resolutions and pull out Iraqi troops from occupied Kuwait by tomorrow for the sake of peace.

The students, from Ramkhamhaeng University's Satchatham Party, read a statement outside the embassy urging Saddam Husayn to pull out of Kuwait by Jan 15. The US-led multinational forces are given the power by a UN resolution to drive Iraqi troops from the oil-rich emirate if the deadline is not met.

No embassy officials came out to meet the students but gathered the flowers and letter after they had left.

The students dispersed after they read the letter, saying Saddam should think about peace in the Persian Gulf. War would bring hardship to every corner of the globe, the letter said.

They dispersed peacefully under the supervision of more than 20 policemen deployed on an around-the-clock basis at the embassy. Police are increasing security at embassies around Bangkok while the deadline for war approaches.

The students also called on Thailand to recognize the Palestinian Liberation Organization as a legitimate government.

Petroleum Policy Subcommittee Meets on Supply

BK1401103891 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Governor of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand [PTT] Anat Aphaphirom briefed reporters on the result of a meeting of the Petroleum Policy Subcommittee at Government House today.

He said that the details of the results of a meeting of the National Energy Policy Commmittee late last week were considered at the meeting, which can be summed up as follows: In the event of war in the Middle East, Thailand's reserve oil for use in a state of emergency will last 40 days. The PTT's reserve oil alone can last 20 days.

Thailand has also been assured by three fellow ASEAN countries of a crude oil supply if war erupts. These supplies are 60,000, 80,000, and 10,000 barrels a day from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei respectively.

However, if war really breaks out in the Middle East, Thailand will not be affected by the oil problem because at present Thailand does not import oil from any of the three countries involved in the Middle East conflict. The contracts of oil purchased from other Middle East countries were made a year in advance, the PTT chief pointed out.

Commerce Minister on Essential Commodities Supply

BK1201013091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister's Office Minister Kon Thappharangsi said yesterday Thailand will have enough oil and gas for use even if war breaks out in the Gulf.

Mr Kon said Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia have already agreed to supply Thailand with 75,000 barrels of oil per day as reserve.

The minister, who sits on the national Energy Policy Committee, said that the domestic output of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is adequate for local consumption and that oil constitutes only 15 percent of energy sources used to generate electricity.

Thailand imports only 50,000 barrels of oil from Saudi Arabia daily and none from Iraq and Kuwait, he said.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on assured that there will be no food shortage in Thailand if war erupts in the Gulf, but said domestic oil prices may "go up temporarily".

Mr Amaret said his ministry already has contingency plans to ensure there will be no shortage of essential commodities as a result of a war in the Gulf.

Iran Pledges To Strengthen Relations

BK1401075791 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Charat Phuachuai reported on his consultations with Iranian Ambassador to Thailand Mohammad Mehdi Sazegara at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

He said the discussion included Thai-Iranian bilateral ties, especially on economic and investment areas. It was agreed that relations between the two countries will be further strengthened although the Persian Gulf war may erupt within the next hours.

The Iranian ambassador also informed his Thai counterpart that Iran will invest in Thailand's southern seaboard development.

Charat said that in the late part of February, the Thai prime minister, foreign minister and a party will pay an official visit to Iran. The Thai delegation will further discuss or finalize the agreement reached on bilateral cooperation committee in negotiations between the two countries.

Turning to the Persian Gulf situation, the Iranian ambassador commented that at present it is difficult to anticipate that the Persian Gulf war will not break out. However, there could be a miracle within the next 48 hours, added the ambassador.

In any event, Iran is willing to assist Thailand on labor and other issues, the Iranian envoy pledged. On oil, Thailand and Iran had earlier agreed in principle that Iran would renew a contract to sell its oil to Thailand for another year from 31 December 1990, the expiry date of the original contract. Following the pattern of the the original contract, Iran has agreed to sell 20,000 barrels of crude oil per day to Thailand.

Moreover, Iran has increased the order of rice from Thailand from 200,000 to 400,000 tonnes, concluded the deputy foreign minister.

Foreign Minister Discusses U.S. Aviation Talks

BK1401113091 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 10 Jan 91 p 4

[Text] Foreign Minister Athit Urairat said that after the cancellation of the Thai-U.S. aviation agreement and the use of a temporary agreement effective until March, the United States has not yet contacted the Foreign Ministry on this issue. If another new round of talks is held, Thailand will not insist on its old stand that the United States reduce its flights to Thailand to match the number of flights that Thai Airways International was allowed to operate to the United States. He said that the attempt to pressure the United States to have equal flight frequencies to Thailand with Thai Airways International's flights to the United States will not only hurt Thai Airways International but also the Thai economy.

Athit said that if another round of aviation talks is held, the copyright issue and the Generalized System of Preferences should be raised for aviation talks as a package so that it will be fair to both sides. He said that he had exchanged opinions on this issue with the Communications Ministry. However, he has not yet officially discussed details of this issue with the ministry.

Army Orders Closure of Border With Burma

BK1201014691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] The Third Army Region yesterday ordered the closure of the Thai-Burmese border in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai Provinces following a flare-up in fighting between forces of the United Wa State Army [USWA] and the Muang Tai Army [MTA] of drug warlord Khun Sa.

A ban was also slapped on border trading in food and other necessities until the two minority forces comply with a Third Army order and withdraw from the Thai border.

The order signed by Third Region Commander Lt-Gen Phairot Chantha-urai demanded that the two forces stay at least 5 km away from the Thai border.

The Third Army said it had summoned representatives of the UWSA and the MTA for a meeting and warned them to immediately withdraw their troops from the border.

The UWSA, a breakaway faction of the defunct Burma Communist Party [BCP], has moved some 700 troops towards strongholds of Khun Sa on Doi Samsao Luang opposite Mae Chan District of Chiang Rai and Doi Laem opposite Mae Ai District of Chiang Mai in preparation for a major assualt, military sources said.

Sporadic fighting was first reported at Doi Pa Hom Pok inside Burma, the sources said. The fighting later spread to Doi San Ju, Doi Lak Taeng and Ban Na Ma-eun.

The clashes intensified on Thursday when UWSA military leaders Sam Nab—a former BCP leader—and Ar-sung ordered their forces to shell Khun Sa's strongholds all day.

Ten UWSA troops reportedly crossed the border into Thailand during the height of the fighting.

They engaged in a brief gunfight with rangers attached to Unit 327 in Mae Chan District before retreating into Burma.

MTA sources said five MTA troops were killed and a number were wounded in the fighting on Thursday alone.

The UWSA's mobilisation was aimed at taking control of Hill 1591 and Hill 1548.

The Thai troops were ordered to prevent any foreign forces from intruding into Thailand and they will be allowed to return fire if shells fall in Thai territory.

—Thai traders are abandoning the Burmese market town of Myawaddy opposite Mae Sot because of taxes and high transport fees, informed sources in the Thai border town said.

The export of Thai goods to Burma through the Mae Sot-Myawaddy checkpoint has been sharply lower since the border reopened on December 28 after being closed by a bomb attack allegedly carried out by Burmese rebels.

About 10-million-baht worth of goods pass through the checkpoint daily, down from 20 million baht, the sources said that [as published].

The value of imports from Burma, mainly cattle, could not be estimated because they were mostly smuggled.

Panithi Tangpati, a member of the Tak Chamber of Commerce, said that some Thai traders now send their goods by sea from Ranong province in the South to Rangoon or Moulmein via Koh Song Island.

Although the route is longer, he said, transportation costs less and the goods arrive at their destinations quicker. Also, several bureaucratic procedures are avoided, he said.

To send a ton of goods from Mae Sot to Rangoon via Myawaddy costs about 3,000 baht, he said, while by boat from Ranong, it costs about 1,000 baht.

Other Thai traders chose to smuggle their goods into Burma through Karen rebel-controlled territory opposite Mae Chan in Umphang District, the sources said, because they pay lower taxes to the rebels than to Burmese authorities.

About five-million-baht worth of goods a day are smuggled through the Mae Chan black market into Burma.

A trader who refused to be identified said that although he had to pay a little more for transportation, he wanted to avoid the taxes and bribes charged at Burmese checkpoints.

"It costs up to two-thirds less than it does to export through Myawaddy," he claimed.

Burmese traders have complained about the increase from 30 to 50 kyat of the fee charged by Burmese immigration officials at the Myawaddy checkpoint, the sources said. To come to Thailand, they are also charged 30 kyat by Thai authorities, they said. Eighty kyat is equal to about 30 baht.

Security Chief Denies Aid to SRV Insurgents

BK1301015391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] National Security Council [NSC] Chief Suwit Sutthanukun yesterday denied an accusation by Vietnam that Thailand had provided training and arms for Vietnamese resistance groups.

In a recent press interview, Vietnamese Interior Minister Mai Chi Tho said the resistance groups, after being trained and armed, were to reenter Vietnam through Laos.

The NSC chief said the accusation was totally untrue.

"It is not possible," Mr Suwit said, adding that Vietnam had the wrong information on the matter.

"Maybe Vietnam knew the reports were not true, but raised the matter anyway, or maybe it fully believed the reports, which are wrong," he said.

Mr Suwit said if Mr Tho came to Thailand he would explain that the accusation was untrue.

Mr Tho visited Thailand late last year to discuss immigration and security matters in an effort to boost tourism in Vietnam.

On the Opposition's call recently to widen relations with neighbouring countries, Mr Suwit said it is already a Government policy as long as the countries pose no threat.

He said Thailand's relations with its neighbours have considerably improved.

"We have fewer problems with our neighbours because they are trying to solve internal problems," he said.

"Although there is less of a threat, we cannot lower our guard because communism still exists. Now many different economic groupings are competing with each other, and this could lead to war," Mr Suwit said, without elaborating.

The NSC is closely following developments in the Gulf, he said.

Vietnam

Reaction to Party Draft Documents Continues

Officers View Draft Platform

BK1001005991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 7 Jan 91

["Article" by Trung Hieu]

[Text] Despite a busy year-end work schedule and the impact of recent sharp increases in commodity prices, the discussions held to make suggestions to the draft documents of the seventh party congress took place in a lively and enthusiastic manner in all chapters of the party organization of the Mobilization Organization Department of the General Staff, an organ of the Ministry of National Defense.

Most opinions voiced by the party chapter of the General Planning Division expressed the joy of welcoming the Draft Platform on Building Socialism for the Transitional Period and unanimously agreed that our party needs such a platform at this juncture. But there were differing ideas on this matter. Lt. Col. Pham Quang Phiet held that in face of the current international and domestic situations, our party's introduction of the platform was necessary and timely. Lt. Col. Nguyen Ngoc Lam contended that the issuance of the platform was necessary but late, and that it should have been formulated earlier at the fourth or fifth party congress. But it was better late than never, he said. Col. Pham Thanh asked: Is it not true our past mistakes were due partly to our failure to elaborate a scientific platform?

Col. Phan Lang welcomed the policy of truly developing democracy instead of doing it in a formalistic fashion, and the policy of mobilizing the intellect of the entire party and people to contribute to the draft documents of the seventh party congress. He boldly proposed that the seventh party congress not be held until the entire party and people have made sufficient and appropriate suggestions to the draft platform. If this has not been done, we can postpone the convening of the party congress a little longer.

Col. Le Van Quy stressed it was imperative for the platform to be issued now. He raised a question and answered it himself: Do we fear change? It is a good thing if we realize that change is necessary and know to how to make timely and appropriate changes and admendments. We should fear only if we do not realize that fact. Nothing is immutable.

Col. Nguyen Son maintained that the draft platform met the requirement of maintaining both principle and flexibility in its wording and, as such, it may win wide support both at home and abroad.

Members of the party chapter of the Policy Research Division made numerous suggestions concerning the naming of the platform and the way it raised various issues. Lt. Col. Do Van Chuan and many other comrades fully agreed with the issue-raising method and the naming of the document as the Draft Platform on Building Socialism for the Transitional Period. For his part, Maj. Han Van Tam believed that the term transitional period should not be used because it makes the document look like a stopgap measure. Instead, it should be called the Platform on Building Socialism in Vietnam, since the term building itself already implies the idea of transition.

Col. Mau Tien Thu thought this platform should raise the issue of it serving as a continuation of our party's 1930 platform.

Chapter One of the draft platform was one of the chapters that attracted the most lively suggestions. Some opinions maintained that the platform should raise those issues concerning line, viewpoint, and principle in general terms instead of delving into achievements, mistakes, and shortcomings, which should be left to the judgment of our people and the world's people. Chapter One should contain only an appraisal of the domestic and world situations. But the majority of views held that the platform also should definitely affirm the great successes and achievements already recorded, because there are people who want to deny them and forget the past. At the same time, it must appropriately assess mistakes, shortcomings and their causes. Many opinions maintained that the term big achievements should be used instead of great successes.

Col. Tran Loi, Lt. Col. Pham Quang Viet, and Lt. Col. Nguyen Ngoc Lan of the General Planning Division's party chapter, and Lt. Col. Do Van Chuan and some other comrades of the Policy Research Division's party chapter believed that our party had made mistakes in some aspects of the general line at the sixth party congress and had allowed them to continue for a long time.

For instance, when we said we must develop the people's right to collective mastery, we were correct in upholding the people's right to mastery, but the problem was that we placed too much emphasis on the collective aspect while paying no attention to the interests of the individual. As a result, no one cared much about the collective's interests, and this has led to grave and lasting consequences, as everyone already knows. Today, it is completely correct for us to attach importance to the human strategy, to regard people as the central factor, and to pay attention to the interests of the individual—but not individualism. This also amounts to an admission of our past mistakes. Or we can cite another example: We advocated developing heavy industry on a priority basis and carrying out the revolution of production relations in advance of other revolutions. Is it not true that these policies also constituted mistakes in our line and have caused serious consequences?

Now we attach importance to efforts to promote production in order to meet the growing demands of human resources development. We are completely correct to regard agricultural production as our primary objective, and we have scored initial yet very important achievements in this domain. In the final analysis, our mistake in determining specific lines and strategic leadership must be traced back to our mistake in determining the contents of some common lines.

According to Comrade Pham Quang Kiet, it is good for the party to acknowledge its mistake in determining the contents of some common lines, because this fact can only help restore the people's trust. According to many views, the phrase made many mistakes in reforming prices, wages, and money and in implementing ideological and organizational work should be recast as made serious mistakes in reforming prices, wages, and money and in implementing organizational, cadre, and ideological work, and so forth.

Regarding the lessons of the Vietnamese revolution, Lt. Col. Nguyen Ngoc Lam, Col. Pham Thanh, and other comrades suggested that instead of dealing only with the need to protect unity and unanimity within the party, the fourth lesson should deal with the need to promote unity between the entire party and people, as well as international solidarity.

As far as the fifth lesson is concerned, the sentence the party leadership is the decisive factor for all victories of the Vietnamese revolution should be replaced by the sentence mentioned in the fourth lesson of the sixth party congress, namely it is necessary to build and develop the party so that it can fulfill its political task.

Many views maintained that the fourth and fifth lessons should be merged into a single lesson to demonstrate the fact that the party leadership is the decisive factor for all victories of the Vietnamese revolution and that in order to be worthy of that leading role and the people's trust, the party must continue to firmly consolidate and purify its organizations so it can fulfill its political mission.

According to the platform, the party is the servant of the people. But some views suggested that this definition be abolished or replaced by a different one, namely that the party faithfully serves the interests of the people. According to these views, although Uncle Ho's definition of the party as the servant of the people was correct, different contexts call for different interpretations.

National defense and security also were the focus of animated discussions of party chapter members and personnel of the Mass Mobilization Organizing Department. Most of the views expressed dissatisfaction with the way the draft platform approached the issue of national defense. According to the comrades, it is not because we are members of the Armed Forces, but because it is an objective demand that we stress the need to attach importance to national defense.

According to Lt. Col. Pham Huu Chieu, Maj. Ha Van Tam, Lt. Col. Do Van Chuan, Lt. Col. Do Xuan Hoi, Lt. Col. Nguyen Ngoc Lam, and other comrades, further clarifications are needed to make everyone understand the following important fundamental problems: national defense and all-people national defense work, the defense of the fatherland, security maintenance, close combination of national defense with security, the position and role of the people's Armed Forces, the guidelines for building the Vietnam People's Army, and the relations between the party and the Army.

The following concrete suggestions have been made:

—Add the word responsibility to the word duty in the sentence, it is the duty of our state and people to defend the fatherland, consolidate the all-people national defense, and build the people's Armed Forces under the party leadership. By so doing, we want to attach more importance to this vital task and also to stress the fact that in addition to a sense of duty, we need to have a sense of responsibility to fulfill our mission.

—Replace the phrase career noncommissioned officers by military specialists and the word appropriate in the sentence adopt appropriate policies toward officers and men and the Army's rear with the term preferred. The reason for this is because the term appropriate could be interpreted arbitrarily.

The comrades maintained that the sacrifices of our Armed Forces should be dealt with somewhere else and not in the closing part of the chapter on national defense, which does not say anything on the orientations for building the Armed Forces, thus leaving everyone with the impression that the Armed Forces have been on the downgrade and national defense has been deprived of its significance.

Comrade Dao Xuan Hoi and other comrades stressed the need to turn the People's Army into a revolutionary and modern regular military organization.

Regarding national security, the phrase trying to create opposition forces to foment instability in our society should be retructured as trying to create opposition forces to overthrow our regime. The reason for this is because instability is but one of the many objectives set by the enemy. Such an interpretation of the issue is not to the point.

Youth Union Makes Suggestions

BK1001024191 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 14 Dec 91 pp 1,4

[Report by Khoi Nguyen on suggestions by Hanoi's Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union to the draft documents of the seventh party congress]

[Text] On 11 December, the youth union of Hanoi Municipality began soliciting its members' views on the draft documents of the seventh party congress by having its cadres in factories, schools and city wards discuss the draft platform for socialist construction in the transitional period. The youths' statements and discussions reflected an atmosphere of openness and faithfulness inherent to youth.

Issues Not Raised in the Platform

Should the platform be issued or not? Is this draft a faithful continuation of the first platform issued by Comrade Tran Phu in 1930 at the party's birth? The union secretary of the pharmacology college, Comrade Vu Van Vinh, contended that we have not had sufficient objective and subjective conditions for building the platform. We should issue only a platform-like statement and should not put forth general matters that can be viewed from any perspective. We should concentrate on formulating the socioeconomic strategy for five and 10 years and the human strategy.

The deputy union secretary of the university, master's degree holder Nguyen Quoc Anh, and union Vice Chairman Vu Trung Chinh disagreed with this suggestion, saying: Every organization needs a platform. It is already very late for the party to be issuing a platform. Nguyen Thanh Ha (of the National Economy College) considered this platform a continuation of the 1930 platform, thoroughly covering the two tasks of the previous platform. He suggested there be an introduction to this question before going into details of the contents. The director of the Minh Chau Youth Union's cultural house also maintained that this platform is absolutely faithful to the 1930 one. Disagreeing with him, Nguyen Quoc Anh and Vu Trung Chinh said the revolutionary tasks set forth in the 1930 platform had been fulfilled in April 1975. We now are building the platform for the new stage under new circumstances and in a new position.

Building Socialism in Our Country

The following question was raised: How long is the period of transition to socialism in Vietnam? No one could answer this question exactly. According to Nguyen Thanh Ha, the concept of national independence and socialism already has changed. In an era of socialist crises in this country and that, confidence in socialism has declined. The platform's discussion of socialism must be relevant in order to rally and attract support from many circles. Where the platform covers assessment, there should be observations on the period since 1975, because since 1975 we have not had a relevant line, according to Nguyen Quoc Anh.

Nguyen Van Dinh, of the Union's Control Committee, did not agree fully with this suggestion, and said the party had made mistakes in setting goals and guidelines. According to union Deputy Secretary Nguyen Manh Cuong, the mistake lies in the general guidelines for setting the task of building large-scale production in the three revolutions, which consider the revolution of production relations the first and trailblazing one while belittling the technological revolution that is said, however, to be the "key one".

Master's degree holder Nguyen Minh He, deputy secretary of the Polytechnics College Union, observed that although we have not had socialism, many aspects of socialism are overemphasized in the platform. When mentioning the international setting, the platform should have some appraisals and obervations of the current socialist crises and international situation. Many agreed with Nguyen Minh He that the disintegration of capitalism should not be emphasized. Nguyen Thanh Ha raised another question: If capitalism collapsed, would there still be any contradiction between antagonistic aspects? And what is dialectical development? But many others supported this question of the platform.

Everyone welcomed our party's decision to put forth simultaneously the draft platform and strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development until the year 2000. Pham Tu Linh of the Hanoi General Corporation of Building said such a decision has created confidence in the success of socialism. Nguyen Thanh Ha said it would be impossible to achieve the two goals of "stabilization" and "development" at one time. Efforts should first be concentrated on "stabilization" to create the premises for "development". (He could not demonstrate how the situation would be stabilized without prior development).

He said the chapter on socioeconomic issues remains unclear. Priority should be given to agriculture. Investment should not be too widespread. In the shift to market-oriented mechanism, the platform mentioned three rights: The rights of owners and users of the means of production and the management right of the state. We should focus on clarifying the rights of owners and users to avoid a situation in which the state would intercede wrongly through its management right, making it impossible for the market mechanism to fully develop its superiority.

The Human Strategy

Doan Minh Chau said that although the platform mentioned the question of building a new culture and new socialist men, which was originally raised at the fourth party congress, it failed to clearly specify the most important point on human strategy and to make proper investment in this strategy.

The headmaster of the union's school, Dao Thanh Huong, also proposed that the platform should lay more emphasis on human strategy. Nguyen Manh Cuong suggested that more attention should be paid to the human strategy serving as a "cushion" for the 21st century, including the strategy toward younger generations. This is the point that both platform and strategy have not clearly specified. Nguyen Quoc Anh said that attention should be paid to resolving social problems such as the problems of mountainous regions and mass organizations, and the livelihood of the people of all strata when shifting to a market- oriented mechanism. Nguyen Thanh Hoa raised the heavy consequences of the shift to a new mechanism, which social policy pensioners should bear. The vestiges of war cannot be wiped out in a few decades. If we do not have measures to resolve social problems uniformly along with shifting to the economic management mechanism, pensioners will remain the ones to suffer the most. The platform, therefore, should take a clear-cut attitude toward setting a guideline for this issue.

Speaking of the Party

Vu Van Vinh said it was not necessary to devote the entire Chapter VI of the draft platform to a discussion of the party. It would be enough simply to say: The Communist Party of Vietnam is the central factor in leading socialist construction in Vietnam. Deputy Secretary of the National Economy College's union Nguyen Thanh Ha said: Since the party has admitted that the people's confidence in the party has declined, what has it done to keep the remaining confidence? Nothing prevents us from saying the party is the vanguard unit of the working class. Is it avoiding something by saying that the party is the vanguard political unit of the entire society? The people look to the party and want it to achieve its goal of working for the people. They do not want to hear the party say, whose party is it?

Concurring with this idea, Nguyen Minh He maintained that the party should be mentioned as the working class' vanguard unit, as before. Nevertheless, the working class should be reconsidered according to a new viewpoint and new thinking. We should not say generally that the party belongs to the entire society. Just as we say the state is of the people, for the people and by the people, we should at the same time have a clear notion of who are the people and who harms the people.

Nguyen Van Dinh and Nguyen Manh Cuong added: It is not advisable to say the party's leadership method is merely persuasion and setting examples, because this is only one aspect of leadership. As for cadre qualifications, they should not be over-specified in the platform. Placing youth union organizations in the political system just like other social organization means we have not fully realized the importance of the youth, who will be the main generations to implement the platform and the strategy until the year 2000.

Marxism-Leninism Institute's Views

BK1001091791 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] The Institute of Marxism-Leninism which is attached to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Commitee held a conference recently to discuss and contribute ideas to the party draft platform on socialist construction and draft strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development. Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, attended the meeting. As a person responsible for the party ideological and theoretical work, Comrade Dao Duy Tung presented some essential, basic issues that should be studied carefully at present. He said that in carrying out the ideological and theoretical work, efforts should be made to make clear to the public the complicated developments in the world situation, as well as their causes, improve the political activities, define the function and authority of the party and state in controlling activities of political organizations in localities and at grass-roots units, and promote the study of party history at various revolutionary stages.

Dealing with the method of studying, Comrade Dao Duy Tung stressed: We must carefully study in depth the various pressing issues in theory as well as in practice and analyze them in an objective and scientific fashion, especially in reviewing the economic organization models for the renovation cause, thereby helping the central government to effectively examine and resolve the arising problems of the nation.

He said that the Institute of Marxism-Leninism should design new methods in research and actively apply its findings to resolving issues of the normal life and arising problems in society such as the gap between the rich and the poor, the unemployment problem, forms of ownership, and usage of the means of production and so forth. He urged that the research work of the institute should be aimed not only at contributing to perfecting the party draft documents, but also at contributing to improving the party guidance in the renovation cause. He said the institute also should actively participate in the struggle to improve the ideological and theoretical work to strengthen the unity of the entire party and people.

Comrade Dao Duy Tung expressed the hope that the Institute of Marxism-Leninism will satisfactorily exercise its function and duty to actively contribute concrete ideas to the party draft documents.

Vinh Phu Contributes Ideas

BK1301122391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The Vinh Phu provincial military party committee recently held a conference of party members to discuss and contribute ideas to the draft documents of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress. Almost 95 percent of members of all party chapters and basic party organizations attached to the provincial military party committee attended the conference.

Through discussions at the conference, almost 200 ideas were contributed to the party draft documents. The majority of the conferees expressed their identity of views to the draft documents. Some of them, however, proposed changes in Chapter One of the draft platform on socialist construction for the transition period, which dealt with the great victory and lessons of the Vietnamese revolution. They said more concrete details should be added to lesson No. 5, which dealt with the role of party leadership, and that lesson No. 6 should be added, which may deal with the party's cadre-related task in the national democratic and socialist revolution.

Discussing the draft strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development up to the year 2000, many party members held that to achieve the set targets, the party and state must improve the management work, provide large-scale supervision, and give extensive guidance to grass-roots units and localities throughout the country.

Party Plenum Issues Communique

BK1401024091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Report on communique issued by the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee's 11th Plenum held 7-12 January 1991—place not given]

[Text] The 11th Plenum of the Sixth Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee was held 7-12 January 1991 to give its views on the draft political report to the seventh national congress of party delegates. Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, head of the subcommittee for drafting the political report, delivered the opening speech at the plenum and introduced the draft political report.

The draft political report to the seventh party congress is an important document that summarizes the renovation realities in our country, examines the implementation of the sixth party congress' renovation line, points out achievements and the extents to which they have been attained, and discusses outstanding issues, shortcomings, newly emerging problems and their causes, and lessons learned from experience. On this basis, the report outlines the general objectives and major tasks in the form of viewpoints and policies for the coming five years, and enhances and further perfects the renovation guidelines set by the sixth party congress.

The plenum unanimously appraised the method of assessing the implementation of the sixth party congress resolution as follows:

1. In assessing the report, attention should be paid to the socioeconomic and political situation at the time when the draft political report will be announced. No matter what the situation prior to that time has been, the socioeconomic situation at the time the draft report is announced will have a strong impact on and influence over the thoughts and feelings of each person as he assesses it. Moreover, the realization of positive changes in socioeconomic life prior to entering the party congress constitutes a task that should be attentively carried out by all echelons and sectors.

2. Even though the situation in the immediate future forms one basis for the appraisal, the entire process over the past four or more years of implementing renovation cannot be discounted. We should not see only the situation of each specific moment and developments in the immediate future while overlooking the most vital and fundamental aspects in terms of both achievements and shortcomings over the past four or more years.

3. In assessing the report, the situation over the past four or more years should be compared to that of the five years preceding that four-year period in order to see positive changes, limitations, or impending changes. If things are considered in an isolated manner and are not

placed within the context of evolution and interrelationships, it will be difficult to correctly evaluate the actual socioeconomic and political situation.

The party Central Committee plenum studied, debated, and unanimously agreed with many observations and major policies set forth in the draft report and, at the same time, presented many important views aimed at enhancing the quality of the draft report.

The plenum entrusted the Political Bureau and the drafting subcommittee with the task of perfecting the draft political report based on the views of the party Central Committee in order to quickly publicize it and solicit the opinions of all party members and the people.

Summarizing his address to conclude the plenum, Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh stressed: The seventh party congress is nearing. Apart from some positive changes, the socioeconomic situation is facing difficulties and complex developments which require all echelons and sectors to actively settle the huge volume of work in preparing for and conducting the party organization congress at all levels.

Comrade members of the party Central Committee, together with all the party committee echelons, should discuss and formulate specific plans and measures to successfully implement the aforementioned tasks and help satisfactorily prepare for the seventh party congress.

Buddhist Clergyman Reacts

BK1401062791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Recorded statement by Thich Thanh Tu, Deputy General Secretary of Vietnam Buddhist Church's Central Executive Committtee]

[Summary] We are very enthusiastic and happy to study the draft platform and strategy outlined by the party, because our party has succeeded in formulating a platform to build socialism.

We in the Buddhist Church's Executive Committee also have a guideline for action, i.e. "religious cultivation, nation and socialism. The platform is very relevant to our church's guideline for action, and we will apply this platform to our activities."

In studying the platform, we have found that "the party and state have recognized their shortcomings," and have now issued a platform to orientate future activities. What has given me cause for joy is that, faced with an international situation full of turmoil and difficulties at home, we remain stable. "If the party and state can firmly row the boat in such a situation, we believe that difficulties can be overcome with this platform."

First, I would like to add that culture and education should be stressed as one issue in the platform, because culture is the key to opening the minds of human beings. Our cadres have committed mistakes and shortcomings also because of a lack of education and culture. If we have been educated properly, how can we acquire the best culture and knowledge of the world? "If we do not pay attention to this issue, no matter what platform we establish, it will be of no use".

Secondly, another important issue is "who will implement the platform and how it is to be implemented ?" This involves the problem of personnel. In a previous meeting with Mr. Nguyen Van Linh and voters' delegates, I have already raised the question of formulating a correct and timely platform and a "contingent of competent and good cadres who have the ability to match words with deeds." If the party and state can skillfully steer our Vietnam boat, I believe we will achieve fine results in implementing the platform.

NHAN DAN Views U.S. Economic Recession

BK1101141591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Jan 91

[NHAN DAN 10 January Article by Le Ba Thuyen: "The United States in the Past Year"]

[Text] In its January 1991 issue, the U.S. magazine TIME picked President Bush as its 1990 Man of the Year. For 60 years now, the magazine has made it a practice to choose a person—regardless of his good or bad character—as the most prominent personality of the year.

Commenting on President Bush, whom it called a double-faced man—meaning he is good and bad at the same time—the magazine contended that two completely different personalities exist within Mr. Bush. He is a president who bears a heavy imprint of indecisiveness and ambiguity in internal policy, while displaying tenacity in foreign policy, especially on the Gulf crisis. What has led TIME to make those remarks?

One of the major objectives set for 1990 by the Bush administration was to maintain a high economic growth rate. Nonetheless, far from reaching this objective, the United States has actually been caught up in a new recession since July 1990.

In his recent New Year's message, President Bush had to admit that bitter truth. As defined by the economists, a recession occurs when the gross national product growth rate remains below the two-percent mark for two consecutive quarters. In 1990, the U.S. GNP increased by only 1.7 percent in the first quarter, 0.4 percent in the second quarter, 1.7 percent in the third quarter, and 1 percent in the fourth quarter.

The situation did not develop as Mr. Bush had expected. The U.S. economy, which was afflicted by great difficulties under Reagan, has continued to experience a serious budget and trade deficit. Great domestic and foreign debts have accumulated during the whole of the 1980's. Mr. Bush's continued efforts to pursue the Reaganist policy has further aggravated those problems. Far from being reduced to $100 billion as required by the Graham-Hoffman-Hollins Bill, the budget deficit has reached $220.4 billion, the second highest in U.S. history. Meanwhile, the trade deficit has remained high, approximately $100 billion, the inflation rate has increased by 6.3 percent compared with 4.5 percent in 1989, and the unemployment rate has stayed at 6.1 percent, or the highest point over the past three years with 7.6 million jobless people nationwide.

What has concerned U.S. public opinion in the past year is a serious financial crisis in all three domains, namely the collapse of the credit system, the bankruptcy of a series of corporations, and the increasingly serious federal budget discrepancy.

There are 2,898 credit institutions in the United States, but by August 1990, nearly half of them went bankrupt. U.S. credit institutions grant loans to help promote production and meet consumer demands. Due to the impact of the economic recession, many major U.S. industrial sectors such as the automobile and building industries have plunged into a crisis, many corporations have experienced difficulties, and the people's living conditions have deteriorated. Unable to honor their debts to the credit institutions, large numbers of borrowers have filed for bankruptcy. The financial crisis has become more and more serious because many corporations have gone bankrupt following their business losses resulting from the recession and other economic woes.

Compared with the previous eight economic recessions, in this economic recession, corporations have to pay much higher interests for their loans than before, accounting for 27 percent of their total income. Since August 1989, there has been an average of 1,300 corporations in the United States going bankrupt per week. During January to November 1990, as many as 55,000 corporations were declared bankrupt. A danger now confronting the U.S. economy and finance is that soon, many business and insurance firms are likely to become bankrupt. Faced with such instability, corporations dare not invest capital, thus making post-recession economic recovery efforts difficult.

The financial crisis in the United States also clearly reflects a severe budget deficit. President Bush has set a target for reducing the budget deficit by 40 percent in 1990. This is to comply with the Graham-Hoffman-Hollins Bill, which calls for a reduction of the budget deficit to below 100 billion dollars. What about the results? Last year, the federal budget deficit shot up to 220.4 billion dollars, a 2.2-fold increase over the authorized level of the Graham-Hoffman-Hollins Bill and almost as high as the 1986 record level of 221 billion dollars. This sharp increase in the budget deficit is due to that fact that revenue was insufficient to cover expenditure. Revenue has been down because of the deteriorating economy and a sharp decrease in foreign capital investment, while expenditure continue to remain high. In particular, annual military spending stood at 280 billion dollars and has risen due to excessive spending for the Gulf crisis.

The budget deficit has compelled the federal government to seek loans to cover its expenditures. Corporations are seeking more loans to maintain their business transactions and achieve technical renovations. Private individuals are also dependent on loans to maintain their daily expenditures. According to statistics, at the end of 1990, total debts accumulated by the United States hit a record of 12,409 billion dollars, with the Federal Government's debts amounting to 3,214 billion dollars. Foreign debts were nearly 670 billion dollars, while the debts of various corporations rose to over 2,000 billion dollars, and debts of private individuals at 3,400 billion dollars. These are the highest debt levels ever recorded since World War Two. Debts are now an intractable problem for the Washington administration and a huge burden on the U.S. budget. In 1990, the interests for debts alone cost the Federal Budget 260 billion dollars, an increase of 90 billion dollars over 1989.

As observed by TIME magazine, while allowing various domestic problems to slip out of hand because of indecisiveness, President Bush last year proved to be very active on various diplomatic issues. He pressed for various actions aimed at widening U.S. influence in East Europe. He effected the peaceful evolution plan in that region, pressured for German unification in favor of Washington and Bonn, sought to realize the concept of settlement of international and regional issues by five standing member countries of the UN Security Council, supported rightist forces in Nicaragua to win the February 1990 general election, fiercely dealt with Japan and Western Europe among the competing three centers of capitalism, pressed for the establishment of the North American common market made up of United States, Canada, and Mexico; and increased infiltration into Latin America.

Washington's distinctive diplomatic action last year was its capitalizng on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, bringing a large number of American troops and soldiers from other countries to the Persian Gulf and spurring the international alliance against Iraq. Through this, it has come up with an assessment of a new Washington-manipulated world order. This Bush administration policy is inspired by the chauvinistic psychology of many Americans desirous of seeing a continued and decisive U.S. influence on events around the world. The Bush administration has hoped that by exerting maximum military, political, and economic pressure, including, if needed, a lightning attack to subjugate Iraq, it will be able to control the vital oil zone in order to hold sway over nations in the region, thereby making the U.S. conspicuously the number-one superpower. But this is a double-edged sword. The oil price increase has dealt a crippling blow to the wanning U.S. economy. If war in the Gulf breaks out, the crude oil price may go up from 65 to 100 dollars per barrel. This will be a real disaster to the U.S. economy.

Bogged down in a Gulf war, the United States will bleed and become deeply divided, while its allies and competitors—namely Japan and West Europe—will seek opportunities to catch up with and even overtake it economically, thus posing a major threat to the U.S.

Today's America is characterized as having too grandiose ambitions while possessing only limited capability, this clearly seen in 1990. This year, with the potentially prolonged recession, the Bush administration will have to continue to cope with more difficulties falling heaping itself on the United States, not to mention the immeasurable disaster of a war in the Gulf war if it breaks out.

Leaders Send Greetings to Albanian Officials

BK1301040091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] On 10 January, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong, and Council of Ministers Chairman Do Muoi sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Albanian Workers Party Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Albanian People's Assembly, and Comrade Adil Carcani, chairman of the Albanian Council of Ministers.

They message says: On the occasion of the commemoration of the 45th founding anniversary of the Albanian People's Socialist Republic, we convey to you, Comrades, the Albanian Workers Party Central Committee, the Presidium of the Albanian People's Assembly, and the Albanian Council of Ministers and people, our warmest greetings.

On this occasion, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach also sent a congratulatory message to his Albanian counterpart, Reiz Malile.

Oil Exploration Contract Signed With Australia

BK1201075691 Hanoi VNA in English 0659 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 12—A contract on oil and gas exploration and exploitation was signed here on Thursday between the Vietnam General Oil and Gas Corporation and the Broken Hill Proprietary Group (B.H.P.) Ltd of Australia.

Under this contract, the 10th product-sharing one Vietnam has signed with foreign companies since May 1988, B.H.P. will explore blocks 120 and 121 on central Vietnam's continental shelf in five years. If oil is discovered and tapped, the company will be refunded for its investment if not, it will bear all risks. The contract will be valid for 25 years.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Australian Ambassador to Vietnam Graham R. Alliband.

Nghe Tinh Disciplines 3,000 for Corruption in 1990

BK1201070491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] According to a report from the anticorruption steering committee in Nghe Tinh Province, as of late 1990, the province disciplined nearly 3,000 people, including 135 cadres removed from their positions and 50 cases handed over to investigative agencies for legal action which involved many suspects.

Those disobedient units have been controlled. Authorities in various districts and sectors have recovered 11.575 billion dong for the state and nearly 20,000 tonnes of rice.

Comparison of Nguyen Co Thach 14 Dec Interview

[BK0901105891]

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese on 15 December carries on pages 1 and 4 a 2,400-word report on the 14 December VNA interview with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach on Cambodia. This version has been compared with and found to be identical to the Hanoi Domestic Service version published under the headline "VNA Interviews Foreign Minister on Cambodia" in the 17 December East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 56, with the following exceptions:

Column one, paragraph one, sentence one reads ...Cambodia prepared on 26 November by the... (changing date)

Same column, paragraph four, last sentence reads ...at variance with the five countries' commitment to the UN convention... (adding words)

Page 57, column one, fifth complete paragraph, last sentence reads ...UN Charter. Therefore, Vietnam can no longer... (replacing word "people" with "Vietnam")

Comparison of Resolution on Socioeconomic Tasks

BK1001031691

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese on 24 December carries the 2,000-word text of the National Assembly's resolution on 1991 socioeconomic development. This version has been compared with and found to be identical to the Hanoi Domestic Service version published under the headline "Assembly Resolution on 1991 Socioeconomic Tasks" in the 24 December East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 41, except for the following:

Page 42, column one, second complete paragraph, only sentence reads ...export volume by 16 percent. [new graf]

Mobilize 22... (changing figure from "18" to "16")

Australia

Soviet Action in Lithuania 'Denounced'

BK1401065491 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Australia has formally denounced the Soviet Union's military action in Lithuania at the weekend. The acting foreign minister, Dr. Neal Blewett, called in the Soviet ambassador in Canberra to convey the government's condemnation. He told the ambassador of Australia's concern that the action could have dangerous implications for the new era of detente between the West and East.

Dr. Blewett also said the worrying developments in Lithuania were contrary to the Soviet Union's more recent position on human rights.

Meanwhile, members of Australia's Baltic community intends to pressure the Federal Government to impose economic sanctions against Moscow. Supporters of independence for the Soviet Baltic states held rallies in several Australian cities at the weekend to protest against Soviet action in the republic.

12,000 Nationals Remain in Middle East

BK1401073291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0719 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Canberra, Jan 14 (AFP)—Up to 12,000 Australians appear to have ignored their government's advice to leave the Middle East as war looms and the chance of orderly departure disappears, Foreign Affairs Department officials said Monday.

Among them is a group of Australian Jews estimated at 7,000 to 12,000 strong, still growing and believed by Australian diplomatic staff to have decided to stay in Israel in a show of solidarity with fellow Jews in crisis.

This is despite Iraq's warnings that Israel will be its first target.

Only about 2,200 have registered with the embassy in Tel Aviv, a foreign affairs spokeswoman said.

Another 1,200 or so Australians have remained in Saudi Arabia, mainly employees of international companies including Telecom and British Aerospace and their dependents. While they are all staying, dependents based in the more vulnerable eastern province are moving to the port city of Jeddah.

Estimates for other countries are United Arab Emirates 310, Jordan 290, Qatar 50 and Yemen 10.

Officials said there is no sign of Australians moving out of any of them, although they feared that if the guns start firing there could still be a sudden rush.

There is also a small but unknown number of Australian ethnic Arabs holding dual citizenship in Kuwait and Iraq who apparently have decided to stay on, it is presumed because of their fear of losing their property.

Most Australian citizens in Jordan, which many observers fear will be paralysed by a flood of refugees from Iraq if war occurs, are also ethnic Arabs.

The first warning to leave was issued by Canberra before Christmas and there have been two since, with each indicating a greater degree of urgency.

Only a few hundred Australians throughout the Middle East heeded the warnings and left while there were still plenty of flights out, a situation which has changed with airlines cutting services to the region.

Company Arranges Relocation

BK1301061991 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Australian Telecom has arranged for aircraft to take the wives and children of its 200-strong Saudi Arabian work force to a safer location. The Australian workers are based in the central city of Riyadh and are upgrading the Saudi telecommunications network—a task Telecom says would suffer major setbacks if interrupted.

Telecom spokesman Peter Thomas says there has been no substantial change in advice from the Foreign Affairs Department about risks involved and contingency plans to evacuate the workers remain in place.

Gas Masks Procured for Citizens in Bahrain

BK1401012591 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Department says it is helping Australians in Bahrain to buy gas masks but cannot provide them directly. Australians living in the Gulf state claims other foreign nationals are being supplied with gas masks but that the Australian Government has ignored their needs.

Foreign Affairs Department official says he hopes gas masks will soon be commercially available in Bahrain, but if not arrangements are being made to transfer masks from Saudi Arabia. He says the Australian Embassy in Riyadh will buy the gas masks and they will in turn be sold to Australians in Bahrain.

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